

BRITTANY ALMQUIST LEWIS

Finance Department
Olin School of Business
Washington University St. Louis
1 Brookings Drive
MSC 1133-124-242
St. Louis, MO 63130

+1 314 935 2935
b.almquist.lewis@gmail.com
www.brittanylewis.org
Twitter: [@brit_lewis](https://twitter.com/brit_lewis)

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

Olin School of Business, Washington Univ. St. Louis, <i>Assistant Prof. of Finance</i>	2022 – present
Guthrie Center for Real Estate, Northwestern University, <i>Visiting Scholar</i>	2020 – present
Kelley School of Business, Indiana University, <i>Visiting Associate Researcher</i>	2022 – 2023
Kelley School of Business, Indiana University, <i>Assistant Prof. of Finance</i>	2020 – 2022

RESEARCH APPOINTMENTS

Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, <i>Dissertation Fellow</i>	Jul. – Nov. 2018
Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco Thomas J. Sargent, <i>Dissertation Fellow</i>	Jun. – Jul. 2018

RESEARCH FIELDS

Financial Intermediation, Household Finance, Real Estate

EDUCATION

Kellogg School of Management, Northwestern University, Ph.D. Finance, 2020
Dissertation: “Essays on Financial Intermediation”
Committee: Dimitris Papanikolaou, Lawrence Christiano, Janice Eberly, John Mondragon
Kellogg School of Management, Northwestern University, M.S. Finance, 2020
Boston College, B.A. Finance (cum laude), 2010
Boston College, B.A. Information Systems (cum laude), 2010

PUBLICATIONS

1. [Lewis, Brittany](#), 2023, [“Creditor Rights, Collateral Reuse, and Credit Supply.”](#) *Journal of Financial Economics* 149, 451-472

(previously titled: *The Effect of Dealer Leverage on Mortgage Quality*)

- [Online Appendix](#)
- [Replication Package](#)
- Press: [Harvard Law School Forum on Corporate Governance](#) • [The Olin Blog](#) • [Kelley School of Business News](#) • [Faculti Interview](#)
- AEA 2022: [Poster Presentation](#)

Securities dealers receive mortgages as collateral for credit lines provided to mortgage companies and reuse the same collateral to borrow money. Exploiting the 2005 BAPCPA rule change, which granted mortgage collateral preferred bankruptcy treatment, I find that strengthening creditor rights increases dealers' collateral reuse. Increasing collateral reuse creates a money multiplier that increases credit supply. Using a novel dataset linking dealers to the mortgage companies they fund reveals that post-BAPCPA, dealers supply

additional credit to mortgage companies by increasing credit lines and relaxing restrictions on collateral securing them. In response, mortgage companies increase origination volume and shift into riskier products.

WORKING PAPERS

2. Hamdi, Naser, [Jiang, Erica](#), [Lewis, Brittany](#), [Padi, Manisha](#), and [Pal, Avantika](#), 2023, [“Capital Regulation and Asset Allocation Amidst Agency Conflicts: Evidence From Mortgage Servicing”](#), (Submitted)

- Winning NBER grant proposal, "Shadow Banks and Financial Distress in Minority Communities: The Debt Servicing Channel," Co-PI with Erica Jiang and Manisha Padi
- Press: The FinReg Blog Sponsored by Duke Financial Economics Center, AEA 2025 Video Series, Olin CFAR Top Cited Paper of 2024

We study the real impacts of capital regulation caused by the reallocation of mortgage servicing rights (MSRs). Using U.S. credit registry data, we show that Basel III's stricter MSR regulation induced banks to transfer riskier MSRs, leading to a market-wide shift toward non-bank servicers. We develop a model showing that the privately optimal allocation of MSRs may not minimize agency conflict in a non-integrated mortgage market. Comparing foreclosure rates, a sufficient statistic for welfare in the model, we show that the reallocation of MSRs decreased agency conflicts and enhanced investor welfare at the expense of borrowers.

3. [Lewis, Brittany](#), 2022, [“The Impact of Collateral Value on Mortgage Originations”](#)

- Winning IU Racial Justice Research Fund grant proposal, "Racial Inequality in the Housing Market"
- Press: [Wells Fargo Advisors Center for Finance and Accounting Research “See Far” Magazine](#) (Featured Article)

I examine the effect of increased asset collateralizability on the riskiness of projects lenders fund. Exploiting the 2005 bankruptcy policy change -- which granted mortgage collateral preferred bankruptcy treatment -- shows that increased collateralizability due to stronger creditor rights on mortgage securities shifts mortgage contract types from conforming to alternative mortgages. Minority-dominant, low-income-growth zip codes are more exposed to these alternative products with low documentation and negative amortizing payment schedules. The shift toward alternative mortgages leads to correlated mortgage payment resets and higher default rates. The results highlight unintended consequences of bankruptcy code and have important implications for its design.

WORK IN PROGRESS

3. [Lewis, Brittany](#), [Padi, Manisha](#), 2024, [“The Cost of Servicing Debt Pools”](#) [\[SLIDES\]](#)

With the rise of securitization, 45% of US mortgages are not serviced by their originator, yet little is known about how loan servicers set their prices and the effect it has on loan performance. We provide novel evidence that the majority of servicers set their servicing fees at the average cost of servicing an entire pool of securitized loans. We calculate a risk based fair market value of the servicing fee at the loan level and document the wedge between the fair market value and the actual servicing fee. Consistent with servicers

working harder to cure overpriced loans, we find that servicers increase foreclosures and decrease loan modifications when there is larger underpricing, making the actual servicing fee lower than the fair market fee. At the deal level, we find that larger underpricing negatively impacts investor cash flows.

5. [Lewis, Brittany](#), 2020, “Real Effects of Capping Bank Leverage”

In this paper, I study the effects of bank leverage ratio restrictions in a general equilibrium model of the macroeconomy where lenders can anticipate bank runs. This framework allows the analysis of the tradeoffs associated with bank capital requirements - while unlimited leverage allows capital to flow most freely to its most efficient users, limiting leverage through capital requirements reduces the probability of a bank run. This model enables me to study the general equilibrium effects of these tradeoffs on household welfare to understand characteristics of the optimal bank leverage ratio requirement. I find that the optimal leverage restriction will be time varying across the business cycle. When the household's marginal utility of consumption is highest, the leverage ratio requirement should be the least restrictive. Conversely, when the household's marginal utility approaches its steady state level, the optimal leverage ratio becomes more restrictive.

SEMINARS & CONFERENCES

*Seminars (including scheduled), *presented by co-author, +postponed due to COVID*

- 2025:** Goethe & SAFE • University Carlos III de Madrid • Academia Sinica • Berkeley Law* • Australian National University • Junior Household Finance Seminar (UVA, Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia) • University of Toronto (Law)* • ETH Zurich (Law & Econ)* • University of Zurich (Law & Econ)*
- 2024:** CFAR Fall Board Meeting • UNSW • University of Sydney • University of Melbourne • Yale Law* • U Chicago Law* • Columbia Law* • Cornell*
- 2023:** University of Colorado Boulder • UT Austin • Washington University in St. Louis • Federal Reserve Board* • UT-Austin Law* • UT-Dallas Law* • Treasury* • USC – Marshall*
- 2022:** Federal Reserve Bank of New York
- 2021:** Junior Household Finance Seminar (UVA, Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia) • University of Oregon (Lundquist) • IU Summer Health Policy Workshop • Stanford GSB • Washington University in St. Louis (Olin)
- 2020:** Emory (Goizueta) • Federal Reserve Bank of New York • University of Georgia (Terry) • University of Delaware (Lerner) • University of Wisconsin-Madison • Federal Reserve Board of Governors • Johns Hopkins (Carey) • Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond • Federal Reserve Bank of Boston • London Business School • Bank for International Settlements • Indiana University (Kelley) • Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas • University of Melbourne+ • Monash University+ • Junior Household Finance Seminar (UVA, Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia) • Northwestern Department of Economics

- 2019:** Wisconsin School of Business at UW Madison • Kellogg School of Management Strategy Department • Northwestern Department of Economics
- 2018:** Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco • Federal Reserve Board of Governors Division of Financial Stability
- 2008:** Boston College Undergraduate Research Symposium, *Awarded Best Presentation*

*Conference Presentations (including scheduled), *presented by co-author, ^poster*

- 2025:** AEA^ • SFS Cavalcade
- 2024:** CEPR Household Finance Conference • UW Fostering Inclusion Workshop • BIS-CEPR-SCG-SFI Conference on Financial Intermediation^ • Philadelphia Fed Mortgage Market Research Conference^ • EFMA • Early Career Women in Finance Conference (ECWFC) • Australian National University Banking and Financial Stability Meeting joint with Financial Research Network FIRN
- 2023:** AFA AFFECT Workshop • Chicago Booth Empirical Finance Conference • SAET • Stanford Institute for Theoretical Economics (SITE) • Red Rock* • INFORMS Annual Meeting • Junior Finance Conference, UW-Madison* • Fischer Shain Research Conference* • Census Bureau Workshop on Race, Ethnicity, and Inequality
- 2022:** AEA • AEA • Berkeley Consumer Law Scholars Conference • WFA • Olin-St. Louis Federal Reserve Mini-Conference
- 2021:** Eastern Economic Association (EEA) • Berkeley Consumer Law Scholars Conference • Midwest Finance Association (MFA) • Oxford Saïd - ETH Zurich Macro-finance Conference

DISCUSSIONS *(including scheduled)*

- 2025:** MFA
- 2024:** AEA • AFA IBEFA • Berkeley Consumer Law Scholars Conference • Midwest Finance Association (MFA) • BIS-CEPR-SCG-SFI Conference on Financial Intermediation • Western Finance Association (WFA) x2 • EFA
- 2023:** Berkeley Consumer Law Scholars Conference • SFS Cavalcade • NBER Summer Institute (Household Finance) • University of Oregon Summer Finance Conference
- 2022:** Midwest Finance Association (MFA), Craig Holden Memorial Conference
- 2021:** 5th Annual Yale Junior Finance Conference • Western Economic Association (WEA) • Conference on Financial Economics and Accounting (CFEA)
- 2020:** Midwest Finance Association (MFA)

AWARDS AND FELLOWSHIPS

Awards:

Eastern Finance Association Rising Scholar

2024

Fellowships:

Household Finance Grant, NBER (\$15,000, Co-PI)	2022 – 2023
Research Equipment Fund Grant, Indiana University (\$75,000, PI)	2021
Kelley Research Funding Grant, Kelley School of Business (\$24,500, PI)	2021
Kelley Research Funding Grant, Kelley School of Business (\$15,000, Co-PI)	2021
Racial Justice Research Fund, Indiana University (\$15,000, PI) (Link)	2020 – 2021
Kellogg Research Funding Grant, Northwestern University (\$3,000, PI)	2019
Kellogg School of Management Fellowship, Northwestern University	2014 – 2019
MFS - 10th Macro Finance Society Workshop Ph.D. Award (Link)	2017
Henrietta Grigg-Lewis Foundation Scholarship	2006 – 2009
Boston College Advanced Study Grant, Awarded Best Presentation	2007
Western New York Academic Scholarship	2006 – 2007

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

Refereeing:

Journal of Finance, Journal of Financial Economics, Journal of Financial Intermediation, Journal of Financial and Quantitative Analysis, Journal of Financial Services Research, Journal of Monetary Economics, Management Science, Review of Corporate Finance Studies, Review of Financial Studies

Service to the Profession:

2025 20th Early Career Women in Finance Conference (ECWFC) Organizer
 2025 WFA Program Committee
 2024 WFA Program Committee; Session Chair, co-chaired w/ Emily Williams *HBS*
 2023 EFA Session Chair, co-chaired w/ Arkodipta Sarkar *NUS*
 2020 SFS Cavalcade North America Faculty Host - First Virtual Conference
 2020 Federal Reserve Board Mentoring to Interns

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Washington University – St. Louis

FIN 470A/560A: Research Methods in Finance (MSFQ, Undergraduate) Fall 2022 – present

Indiana University

F300: Introduction to Financial Management (Undergraduate) Fall 2020 – Fall 2021

Northwestern University (teaching assistant)

FINC 470: International Finance (MBA and Executive MBA) Fall 2015 – Fall 2017
 Professor Sergio Rebelo

FINC 941: Macroeconomic Policy and Global Capital Markets (MBA) Winter 2016 – Spring 2017
 Professor Janice Eberly
 Professor Nicolas Crouzet

Boston College (teaching assistant)

ISYS0021: Computers in Management (Undergraduate) Fall 2007 – Fall 2008
 Professor Gerald Kane

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Research Assistant to Professor Brian Weller, Kellogg School of Management	Jul. – Aug. 2015
Research Assistant to Professor Gerald C. Kane, Boston College	Mar. 2007 – May 2008

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Analysis Group, Summer Analyst Intern (2008)/Analyst/Sr. Analyst, Boston, MA	Aug. 2010 – Jun. 2014
Pioneer Investments, Equity Research Summer Analyst, Singapore	Aug. – Sep. 2009
KPMG, Information Technology (IT) Advisory Summer Analyst, New York City, NY	Jun. – Jul. 2009

OTHER ACTIVITIES AND SERVICE

Outreach:

Public Service Economics, Boston	2010-2013
Dress for Success, Boston	2008-2009

PERSONAL INFORMATION

Citizenship: USA

SKILLS

Language: English (native), Spanish (advanced)

Computer: SAS, STATA, R, SQL, Matlab, Fortran, Python, Command Line Scripting, HTML, PHP, LiveCode, Socialtext Wiki, LaTeX