

Maximilian Jager

Assistant Professor

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APPOINTMENTS

Assistant Professor of Finance

Frankfurt School of Finance & Management, Germany

2022 –

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Primary: Financial Regulation, Financial Intermediation

Secondary: Financial Stability, Macro-Finance

EDUCATION

Ph.D. in Economics

Advisors: Ernst-Ludwig von Thadden (primary), Sascha Steffen (secondary)

University of Mannheim, Germany

2016 – 2022

Visiting Scholar

Host: Viral Acharya

Stern School of Business, New York University, USA

2021 – 2022

Master of Science in Economics (with honors)

University of Regensburg, Germany

2013 – 2016

Visiting Student

Universidad Carlos III de Madrid, Spain

2014 – 2015

Bachelor of Science in Economics

University of Regensburg, Germany

2010 – 2013

PUBLICATIONS

Kicking the can down the road: government interventions in the European banking sector [↗](#)

joint with Viral Acharya (NYU Stern), Lea Borchert (ZEW), and Sascha Steffen (Frankfurt School)

We analyze the determinants and the long-run consequences of government interventions in the eurozone banking sector during the 2008/09 financial crisis. Using a novel and comprehensive dataset, we document that fiscally constrained governments “kicked the can down the road” by providing banks with guarantees instead of full-fledged recapitalizations. We adopt an econometric approach that addresses the endogeneity associated with governmental bailout decisions in identifying their consequences. We find that forbearance caused undercapitalized banks to shift their assets from loans to risky sovereign debt and engage in zombie lending, resulting in weaker credit supply, elevated risk in the banking sector, and, eventually, greater reliance on liquidity support from the European Central Bank.

Review of Financial Studies, 2021, 34(9), 4090 – 4131.

The Janus Face of Bank Geographic Complexity

joint with Iñaki Aldasoro (BIS) and Bryan Hardy (BIS)

We study the relationship between bank geographic complexity and risk using a unique dataset of 96 global bank holding companies (BHCs) over 2008–2016. From data on the affiliate network of internationally active banking entities, we construct a measure of geographic coverage and complexity for each BHC. We find that higher geographic complexity heightens banks' capacity to absorb local economic shocks, reducing their risk. However, higher geographic complexity can also help banks soften the impact of prudential regulation, increasing their risk. Bank geographic complexity therefore has a Janus face, decreasing some but increasing other aspects of bank risk.

Journal of Banking and Finance, 2022, 134, 106040.

WORKING PAPERS AND WORK IN PROGRESS

Clear(ed) decision: the effect of Central Clearing on firms' financing decision

joint with Frederick Zadow (Uni Mannheim)

Does credit derivative market regulation affect corporate finance decisions? We investigate this question in the setting of the central counterparty (CCP) clearing reform on the corporate credit default swap (CDS) market. Exploiting the staggered introduction of CCP clearing to CDS contracts – an insurance against firm default – we uncover a shift in the debt composition of firms with adverse real economic consequences. Firms whose CDS contracts are eligible for clearing with the monopolist CCP lose bond market funding, but increase their demand for bank loans. Insufficient bank credit supply forces firms to shrink their balance sheet, cut investment and become less profitable. We theoretically motivate two potential channels of effect from clearing firms' CDS contracts onto bond demand. The empirical evidence strongly supports an “arbitrage channel”: lower counterparty risk on the centrally cleared CDS market attracts investors away from the bond market.

Interbank Risk Assessment – A Simulation Approach

joint with Thomas Siemsen (Bundesbank) and Johannes Vilsmeier (ECB)

We introduce a novel simulation-based network approach, which provides full-fledged distributions of potential interbank losses. Based on those distributions we propose measures for (i) systemic importance of single banks, (ii) vulnerability of single banks, and (iii) vulnerability of the whole sector. The framework can be used for the calibration of macro-prudential capital charges, the assessment of systemic risks in the banking sector, and for the calculation of banks' interbank loss distributions in general. Our application to German regulatory data from end-2016 shows that the German interbank network was at that time in general resilient to the default of large banks, i.e. did not exhibit substantial contagion risk. Even though up to four contagion defaults could occur due to an exogenous shock, the system-wide 99.9% VaR barely exceeds 1.5% of banks' CET 1 capital. For single institutions, however, we found indications for elevated vulnerabilities and hence the need for a close supervision.

Bundesbank Discussion Paper No. 23/2020.

Bank opacity – patterns and implications

joint with Stefan Avdjiev (BIS)

We investigate the patterns and implications of bank opacity in Europe using a rich bank-level data set. Employing a novel event study methodology, we document that public data releases by the European Banking Authority (EBA) on banks' exposures to individual countries and sectors contained information that was not previously priced by equity and CDS markets. We demonstrate that the degree of bank opacity varied considerably across bank nationalities and counterparty sectors – it was highest for European periphery banks' sovereign exposures and European core banks' private sector exposures. Furthermore, we document that underestimations of banks' credit risk by markets were associated with lower funding costs and higher wholesale borrowing (for all banks) as well as with greater risk taking and higher profitability (for European periphery banks).

CEPR Discussion Paper No. 17024

Regulatory Heterogeneity and Credit Allocation

This project investigates whether the simultaneous presence of different regimes of bank credit risk regulation (standardized (SA) vs. internal-ratings based (IRB) approach) is socially desirable. Using credit register data, this paper documents heterogeneous lending incentives for banks under different regimes. Moreover, the project aims at measuring the current efficiency of credit allocation under both regimes, as well as the single regime counterfactuals. Preliminary results show a more efficient credit allocation in sectors whose lending is dominated by IRB banks.

–work in progress–

CONFERENCES AND PRESENTATIONS

Conference presentations (including scheduled):

FIRS Annual Conference, IBEFA Summer Meeting, AFA PhD Student Poster Session, ENTER Jamboree, German Economic Association Annual Meeting, AFFI Annual Meeting, CRC TR 224 Retreat, RGS Doctoral Workshop, Bonn-Mannheim PhD Workshop, Muenster Banking Workshop, Workshop on Recent Developments in Banking Research (CRC TR 224), IWH-CIREQ-GW Macroeconometric Workshop (poster), Spring Meeting of Young Economists

Seminar presentations (including scheduled):

NHH Bergen, Oxford Saïd, Copenhagen Business School, WU Vienna, CEMFI, NYU Stern, University of Bern, Stockholm School of Economics, HEC Paris, Frankfurt School of Finance & Management, Tilburg University, Bundesbank, Bank for International Settlements

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Research Assistant

Prof. Sascha Steffen, Frankfurt School of Finance & Management, Germany 2021 –

Research Assistant

Bank for International Settlements, Switzerland February – August 2019

Research Assistant

Bank for International Settlements, Switzerland June – September 2018

Visiting Researcher

Bundesbank, Germany July – December 2017

Trainee

European Central Bank, Germany May – September 2016

Internships

KPMG AG, Bayerische Landesbank, Centre for European Economic Research (ZEW) 2012 – 2015

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Teaching Assistant

Principles of Econometrics (B.Sc.)
University of Mannheim 2018 – 2019

Teaching Assistant

Principles of Econometrics, Statistics for Economists, Macroeconomics I/II (all B.Sc.)
University of Regensburg 2012 – 2016

SCHOLARSHIPS AND AWARDS

Exchange Scholarship <i>German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD)</i>	2021 – 2022
Ph.D. Scholarship <i>Stiftung Geld & Währung</i>	2018 – 2021
Ph.D. Scholarship <i>German Research Foundation (DFG)</i>	2016 – 2018
Selected Participant <i>Lindau Nobel Laureates Meeting</i>	2020
Finalist <i>DZ Bank Career Award</i>	2017
Top of class <i>M.Sc. Economics, University of Regensburg</i>	2016
Thesis Award <i>Outstanding master thesis in economics or business, Christa-Lindner Foundation</i>	2016

SKILLS

Computer skills: R, Stata, SQL, E-Views, MATLAB, VBA, Python, JMulTi, SPSS

Languages: English, German (*native*), Spanish

OTHER ACTIVITIES

Professional: Ph.D. student representative, founder and organizer of Ph.D. student reading class

Private: Instructor of university sports classes, volunteer at the local animal shelter, futsal enthusiast

REFERENCES

Prof. Ernst-Ludwig von Thadden

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University of Mannheim
vthadden@uni-mannheim.de

Prof. Sascha Steffen

Department of Finance
Frankfurt School of Finance & Management
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Prof. Viral Acharya

Department of Finance
NYU Stern
vacharya@stern.nyu.edu

Citizenship: German

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