Justin Mohr January 6, 2025

Finance Department, Gies School of Business 727-858-6066 Contact 1206 S Sixth Street mohr6@illinois.edu

Champaign, IL 61820 Website: jmohr.me

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign Current

Ph.D. candidate, Finance 2019 - Present **EDUCATION**

> Committee: George Pennacchi (Chair), Charlie Khan, Dana Kiku, Qiping Xu, Julia Fonseca

University of South Florida Degrees Held

Information

B.S., Quantitative Economics and Econometrics, Summa Cum Laude 2016 - 2018

Minor: Mathematics

"Pulling the Plug: Retail Traders and Social Media" Working Papers

(Job Market Paper) (Draft)

This paper uses days on which social media platform connectivity is exogenously interrupted to study social media's impact on retail trading. It provides evidence consistent with social media platforms spreading fanatical optimism rather than rational beliefs. On "outage" days, social media-discussed stocks experience an increase in retail trading volume concentrated in selling during the first 2 hours of the outage. Social mediadiscussed stocks experience a price decline that reverses over the next day following the outage. These results can be explained by a theoretical model of fanatical optimism and are robust to a battery of alternative explanations. The paper's findings highlight the important role of social media on retail traders' belief formation and its stock market consequences.

"House of Stolen Cards: Payment Security and Lending Decisions" (with Divij Kohli) (Draft)

Research on payment security and credit card fraud has been constrained by data limitations. Exploiting a quirk of credit reporting, we identify credit cards exposed to fraud in credit bureau data. Using a matched-sample difference-in-differences approach, we find that lenders restricted credit supply to individuals exposed to fraud, while consumer demand for credit leveled off post-fraud. We then study the impact of a sudden U.S. government initiative promoting the adoption of more secure chip-enabled cards. Following this intervention, lenders ceased restricting credit supply to fraudexposed consumers. However, despite enhanced payment security, consumers continue to reduce their credit demand after fraud exposure. Our findings suggest that improved payment security mitigates fraud risks for lenders, but persistent consumer distrust about payment security underscores the need for further policy innovations, such as one-time passcodes for credit card transactions.

WORK IN Progress "The Value of Truth in Social Media: Retail Traders and Reddit Ban Bets" (with Corbin Fox)

"The Other Half: Monetary Policy Transmission for Households without Mortgages"

(with Divij Kohli and Yucheng Zhou) Presented FMA 2024 Early Ideas

SEMINARS & CONFERENCES
(*) = CO-AUTHOR
PRESENTATION

2024: Midwestern Finance Association Ph.D. Symposium, Financial Management Association Annual Meeting, FMA Early Ideas*, Brown Bag at University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign *, Southwestern Finance Association Annual Meeting, Eastern Finance Association Annual Meeting

2023: Financial Management Association Annual Meeting, Brown Bag at University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

2022: University of South Florida, Economics of Financial Technology Conference, Southern Finance Association Annual Meeting

2021: Brown Bag at University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Latin American and Caribbean Economic Association (LACEA)

Refereeing Activity

Journal of Financial Research, The Financial Review

Service Program Committee

Southern Finance Association 2022 Annual Meeting, Southwestern Finance Association 2024 Annual Meeting, Eastern Finance Association 2024 Annual Meeting, Southern Finance Association 2024 Annual Meeting

Organizer of Monday Finance Ph.D. Student Seminar Series 2023-Present
Co-Organizer of UIUC Ph.D. Reading Group 2020-Present
Co-Host of UIUC Finance Brown Bag 2021-2023

Session Chair

Latin American and Caribbean Economic Association (LACEA) 2021, Economics of Financial Technology Conference 2022, Southwestern Finance Association Annual Meeting 2024

Teaching

TA: Big Data Analytics (Graduate Level)

Head Professor: Julian Reif

TA: Corporate Finance (Undergraduate Level)

Head Professor: Michael Dyer

Department of Finance, UIUC

Department of Finance, UIUC

Included on List of Instructors Rated Excellent by Their Students

INVITED GUEST LECTURES

Spring 2023, **Spring 2024**: "Retail Traders and How We Think" for the course: Financial Institutions and Markets (FinTech approach) at the University of Georgia, Athens

Honors and	Robert Ferber Award	Summer 2024
Awards	Schewe Fellowship	2023-2024
	Zwisler Fellowship	Summer 2022
	Included on List of Instructors Rated Excellent by Their Students	2021
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State Farm Doctoral Fellowship 2019-2020

OTHER EXPERIENCE Junior Analyst - Ballast Point Ventures

July 2018 - July 2019