Juebin Zeng

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Research Interests

Machine Learning Applications in Finance; Executive Succession; Corporate governance; Firm value and innovation; Empirical Asset Pricing

Education

2025   **Ph.D. in Finance, University of Auckland, Auckland, New Zealand**
- Supervisor: Prof. Henk Berkman (University of Auckland) and Prof. Helen Lu (Vlerick Business School)
- Thesis: "Three Essays on Corporate Governance and CEO Dismissal"
- University of Auckland Doctoral Scholarship recipient

2021   **M.MS in Finance (First Class Honors), University of Waikato, Hamilton, New Zealand**
- Supervisor: Dr. Susanna Lu (RMIT University)
- Thesis: "Board gender diversity and firm performance"

2019   **PgCert in Computing, Australian National University, Canberra, Australia**
   Courses learned: Structural Programming, Algorithm, Relational Database, Professional Practice

2018   **B.BA in Finance, University of Waikato, Hamilton, New Zealand**

Publication

- Zeng, J., Huang, P., Lu, Y., Wu, J. G., & Yin, L. (2025). Board gender diversity and firm performance revisited: international evidence. *Applied Economics*, 1–24. (ABDC – A)

Working Papers

1. Berkman, Henk and Lu, Helen and Zeng, Juebin, Predicting Performance-Induced CEO Dismissals Using Machine Learning (June 10, 2023). Available at SSRN: https://ssrn.com/abstract=5951814 or http://dx.doi.org/10.2139/ssrn.5951814

- We employ AI models to forecast performance-induced CEO dismissals; demonstrates superior out-of-sample predictive accuracy and reveals market under-reaction to leadership risk.
- The paper has been presented at:
    - New Zealand Finance Meeting (2023, 2025)
    - Australasian Banking and Finance Conference (2023)
    - Auckland Region Accounting Conference (2023)
    - New Zealand Finance Colloquium (2024)
    - The 8th Vietnam International Conference in Finance (2024)
    - Corporate Finance Day (2025, Netherlands)
    - Being prepared for EFA this year

2. "Anti-pledging policy and firm financial constraints", co-authored with Prof. Henk Berkman and Prof. Helen Lu

- Share pledging allows CEOs of financially constrained (FC) firms to obtain diversification and liquidity while maintaining firm-level risk-taking incentives.
- Following the 2012 ISS opposition to share pledging, the proportion of cash compensation for FC firms increased by approximately 8 percent relative to non-financially constrained (NFC) firms.
- FC firms experienced significant declines in implied volatility and firm value compared with NFC firms in the period immediately after the ISS announcement.
- The combination of negative abnormal returns and reduced volatility indicates that markets perceived anti-pledging policies as restricting managerial risk-taking in ways that destroyed, rather than created, shareholder value for FC firm.

Work in Progress

- **"Nonlinear pricing of firm characteristics"**, solo-authored

Teaching and Research Experience

- **Graduate Teaching Assistant**

  2023Q1 – 2026Q1   Businfo 716 – Business Analytics for FinTech (Postgraduate)
  - Served as the lead GTA for the FinTech stream.
  - Developed new lab materials and Python/ exercises to support curriculum goals.
  - Teaching evaluation: 4.33/5 for 2024Q1. A GTA's teaching evaluation takes place after the lecturer's teaching evaluation has closed (after the end of the quarter), leading to a low response rate or null results.

  2025Q4 – 2025Q4   Businfo 711 & Businfo 718 (Postgraduate)
  - Acted as a programming consultant for student capstone projects of Master of Business Analytics, assisting with Machine Learning implementation.
  - Teaching evaluation: 5/5 for 2025 Q4

  2022S2 – 2026SS   Finance 251 – Financial Management (Undergraduate)
  - Delivered tutorials and drop-in clinic sessions to large undergraduate cohorts.
  - Assisted in transitioning the course to a Flipped Classroom mode: Leveraged AI-driven audio synthesis to create standardized educational videos. This approach minimized linguistic barriers and improved content accessibility for international and domestic students alike.

  2025S2   Finance 351 – Advanced Financial Management (Undergraduate)
  2025S1   ACCTG 102 – Accounting Concepts (Undergraduate)
  2022S2   Finance 261 – Introduction to Investment (Undergraduate)

- **Affiliated Doctoral Researcher – Vlerick Business School**   Jan 2025 – Sep 2025
  - Working with Prof. Helen Lu on the project of "Predicting performance-induced CEO dismissal using machine learning".
- **Research Assistant – University of Auckland**   Dec 2024 – Feb 2025
  - Collaborated with Prof. Henk Berkman on an R-based AI and asset pricing project, responsible for data preprocessing, replicating empirical results, and reviewing/debugging code.

Skills

- **Programming:** Python (python programming, machine learning algorithms deployment, document analysis, data analysis and visualisation), Java (structural programming), SQL, Stata, R, Latex, Tableau, Power BI
- **Language:** Mandarin (Native), English (Professional)

Awards and Certificates

- University of Auckland Doctoral Scholarship
- First place in Finance 705 Empirical finance, University of Auckland
- Google Advanced Data Analytics Certificate
- Google Data Analytics Professional Certificate

Referees

Prof. Henk Berkman (Co-Supervisor, Co-author), University of Auckland, New Zealand

Prof. Helen Lu (Co-Supervisor, Co-author), Vlerick Business School, Belgium

Dr. Susanna Lu (Supervisor of Master thesis, Co-Author), RMIT University, Australia