Kiran Modi

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G. Brint Ryan College of Business University of North Texas 1307 W Highland St. Denton, TX, 76201

Education

Ph.D., Finance, University of North Texas (Expected)
M.S., Finance, University of North Texas
Certificate of Chartered Accountant of India
B.Sc. Business, Gujarat University, India

Awards & Honors

2024-2025	Outstanding Student Award, The Ascend Gala, UNT
2023	Best Summer Research Paper Award, FIREL Department, UNT
2022	Best Summer Research Paper Award, FIREL Department, UNT
2021-2025	Tuition Benefit Program Award, UNT
2020-2021	Outstanding Student Award, The Ascend Gala, UNT

Job Market Paper

ESG Ratings, Ownership Structure, and Firm Value

I examine how MSCI Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) rating changes affect institutional ownership and stock returns in U.S. firms. Specifically, I focus on three observable ownership shocks: (1) ESG rating upgrades and downgrades, (2) rating changes that cross MSCI's rating threshold for potential ESG-index inclusion, and (3) firms that are added to, or deleted from, ESG-focused exchange-traded funds (ETFs). Market reactions to rating changes are modest, but positive for both upgrades and downgrades. In contrast, upgrades lead to increased ownership while downgrades exhibit institutional ownership declines, particularly for those that drop below MSCI's index inclusion threshold. Upgrade firms subsequently added to ESG-focused ETFs exhibit mixed market responses, but increased institutional ownership. However, downgrades followed by ETF removals have significant negative abnormal returns and reduced 13F holdings. Propensity-score matching and dynamic difference-in-differences analyses corroborate these patterns.

Work in process

- ESG Ratings and Ownership structure and Value: Cross Country Evidence
- Governance by Contract: Shareholder Agreements and Corporate Control

Teaching

University of North Texas

2024-Present Instructor

Introduction to Finance (FINA 3770) Teaching Evaluation Score (3.50/5.00)

2021-2023 Teaching Assistant

Introduction to Finance (FINA 3770) Financial Management (FINA 5170)

Financial Statement Analysis and Liquidity Management (FINA 4300)

Research Skills

- Econometrics & Data Analysis: Stata, SAS, R (tidyverse, data.table, ggplot2), Python (pandas, NumPy, statsmodels, scikit-learn)
- Data Management & Research Workflow: Git/GitHub, Jupyter Notebooks, Excel macros for automated data download (Morningstar Direct), WRDS, Bloomberg Terminal, MSCI, CRSP/COMP, CapIQ
- Visualization, Reporting & Document Preparation: Excel (advanced, VBA), Tableau, LaTeX, Overleaf, Beamer
- Natural Language Processing / LLM Applications: Python pipelines for SEC EDGAR scraping; contract-clause extraction using OpenAI GPT-4o for large-scale shareholder agreement analysis

Other Experience

2021-present	Research Assistant, UNT
2024	FMA Paper Discussant
2011-2017	Principal Chartered Accountant Finance Analyst / Consultant
	Darshan A Shah &Co - Chartered Accountant, India
2008-2010	Intern Financial Statement Auditing & Taxation
	Aniket B Shah & Co Chartered Accountant, India

References

Dr. Stuart Gillan

Professor, G. Brint Ryan Finance Chair G. Brint Ryan College of Business University of North Texas Stuart.Gillan@unt.edu

Dr. Meredith Rhodes

Assistant Professor G. Brint Ryan College of Business University of North Texas Meredith.Rhodes@unt.edu Dr. Takeshi Nishikawa Associate Professor G. Brint Ryan College of Business University of North Texas Takeshi.Nishikawa@unt.edu