

Qiaozhi (George) Ye | 叶乔治

PERSONAL INFORMATION

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RESEARCH INTERESTS

Institutional Investors | Corporate Governance | Sustainable Finance | Financial Regulation

ACADEMIC POSITION

08/2024 - present **Assistant Professor, Finance**
Dishui Lake Advanced Finance Institute (DAFI)
Shanghai University of Finance and Economics (SUFU)

EDUCATION

08/2019–06/2024 **Ph.D. Candidate, Finance**
National University of Singapore (NUS)

01/2023–07/2023 **Visiting Scholar, Finance**
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (UIUC)

09/2014–12/2018 **Bachelor of Commerce, 1st-Class Honors**
University of Queensland (UQ)

09/2012–06/2016 **Bachelor of Business Administration, Accounting**
Guangdong University of Foreign Studies (GDUFS)

WORKING PAPERS (* PRESENTED BY COAUTHOR)

1. **Comments that Count: How Corporate Lobbying Shapes Governance Regulations**
with Qianzhou Du (USTC), Jiekun Huang (UIUC), Pengfei Ye (Virginia Tech)

Abstract: We investigate the motivations and effectiveness of corporate lobbying by analyzing public firms' comment letters on the SEC's proposed governance-related rules. We find that public firms predominantly submit pro-management comment letters and that these firms are often associated with weaker governance characteristics. Notably, public firms' letters are more likely to be cited in final rules and lead to material changes aligned with their positions —particularly when advocating for pro-management changes. Moreover, public firms whose pro-management letters are cited in pro-management material changes experience significantly negative abnormal

stock returns upon the release of the final rule. These findings suggest that public firms leverage the rulemaking process to protect entrenched managerial interests at the expense of shareholder value.

Presentation: Florida International University*, Iowa State University*, University of Iowa*

2. **Internalizing environmental externalities through geographic ownership networks**
with Adrian Lam (Pitt)

Abstract: We propose and test the hypothesis that ownership connections between collocating firms facilitate the internalization of environmental externalities. Using the US EPA Toxic Release Inventory data from 1987 to 2019, we find that facilities sharing significant common institutional ownership with nearby firms tend to release fewer toxic chemicals, compared to other facilities of the same parent firm. An analysis using mergers of financial institutions as a quasi-natural experiment suggests that the effect of geographic common ownership on toxic pollution is causal. Consistent with the idea that common owners internalize pollution externalities across their portfolio firms, mutual funds with larger ownership stakes in the area of a facility are more likely to vote in favor of shareholder-sponsored environmental proposals at the facility's parent firm. Collectively, our findings highlight the potential role of common ownership in addressing market failures pertaining to environmental externalities.

Presentation: 2024 Asian Finance Association Conference, 2024 American Finance Association Conference Poster Session, 2023 Singapore Scholars Symposium, 2023 Asia-Pacific Corporate Finance Online Workshop, 2023 Financial Management Association Job Market Paper Presentation Session, Chinese University of Hong Kong (Shenzhen) seminar, Shanghai University of Finance and Economics seminar, Peking University HSBC Business School seminar, and UIUC doctoral student seminar

3. **Who do you vote for? Same-race voting preferences in director elections**
with Johan Sulaeman (NUS)

Abstract: This paper examines racial preferences of shareholders in the context of corporate director elections. We document a higher propensity of mutual fund managers to vote for director nominees who match their racial or ethnic identity. This same-race preferential voting pattern is more prevalent in elections involving nominees receiving negative recommendations from the dominant proxy advisor ISS. We investigate various potential channels –statistical discrimination, value maximization, conflicts of interest, social networks, and taste-based biases– using high-dimensional fixed effect models along with heterogeneity tests. Additional evidence indicates that same-race preferential voting has important consequences for director candidates' election and career outcomes.

Presentation: 2024 American Finance Association Conference*, 2023 Financial Management Association Conference, 2023 European Finance Association Conference, UIUC doctoral student seminar, 2023 Eastern Finance Association Conference, 2022 Australasian Finance and Banking Conference, 2022 Miami Behavioral Finance Conference*, SMU brown bag meeting*, and UQ

brown bag meeting

4. **Active mutual fund common owners' returns and proxy voting behavior**
with Ben Charoenwong (NUS) and Zhenghui Ni (NUS), Revise & Resubmit at *Journal of Financial and Quantitative Analysis*

Abstract: We find that active mutual funds owning product market competitors have superior risk-adjusted returns that are not driven by industry concentration, common selection, or stock picking ability. These funds charge higher fees but also generate persistent net-of-fee returns for investors. Funds with higher common ownership are more active voters who are more likely to vote against executive incentives compensation and for directors with existing directorships in competitors. Our findings suggest some actively-managed mutual funds have an incentive to soften product market competition and that proxy voting could serve as one mechanism for influencing corporate policy.

Presentation: 2023 European Finance Association Conference Poster Session, NBIM-Oxford Conference on Common Ownership*, UIUC doctoral student seminar, 2023 Midwest Finance Association Conference, 2022 Australasian Finance and Banking Conference*, 2022 International Society for the Advancement of Financial Economics' Conference, 2022 Singapore Scholars Symposium*, 2022 Chinese Finance Annual Meeting*, 2022 Asian Finance Association Conference*, 2022 Financial Markets and Corporate Governance Conference*, the 14th Annual Risk Management Conference*, and NUS brown bag seminar

5. **Are employees informed? Evidence from employee stock ownership in defined contribution pension plans**

Abstract: This paper investigates the return predictability and information content of changes in employee ownership of own-company stock in defined contribution pension plans. Using the US Department of Labor's Form 5500 data from 2000 to 2019, I find that a two-standard-deviation increase in the changes in employee stock ownership in a year is associated with a 2.2-to-2.5 percentage point increase in employers' annualized abnormal returns in the subsequent year. The results are robust to both regression and portfolio sorting approaches, alternative return measures, and controlling for firm characteristics and reported insider trading activities. The changes in employee ownership are more predictive of employers' stock returns in smaller firms and firms with higher information asymmetry and are positively associated with forthcoming annual earnings surprises and earnings announcement returns. The return predictability of aggregate employee trades is short-lived and confined to the period when such information remains non-public. Plan investment advisors appear to exploit advantage of their connection with the plans and trade in the same direction as employees prior to the public release of the plan information. Overall, this paper provides compelling evidence that employees engage in informed trading of their own-company stock in pension plans.

Presentation: 2023 ACEM Doctoral Students Forum

PRE-DOC PUBLICATION

1. **Missing the boat: Regulatory approval delay and investment project outcomes** with Ronghong Huang (UQ) and Kelvin Tan (UQ), *British Accounting Review*

Abstract: By using unique hand-collected project-level investment data on Chinese private investments in public equity (PIPE) issuances, we show that the length of the regulatory approval process for equity issuance is positively related to the probability of subsequent changes in equity-financed projects and a deterioration in project returns. The effects are more pronounced for firms in a highly competitive industry and with a comparative disadvantage. Furthermore, we show that this relationship is causal by exploiting the exogenous shock to approval delay caused by changes in the Chairman of the China Securities Regulation Commission. In response, equity issuers mitigate the delay impact by temporarily increasing debt financing.

Presentation: 2019 Asian Finance Association Conference, and 2018 UQ Research Students Colloquium (Best Written Award)

TEACHING ASSISTANTSHIP

08/2022–11/2022	Finance (NUS Bachelor), by Winston Low
01/2022–05/2022	Investment Analysis and Management (NUS Master), by Stephen Dimmock
01/2022–05/2022	Foundation of Investments (NUS Master), by Karsten Müller
09/2021–10/2021	Topics in Private Equity (NUS MBA), by Veronica Eng
09/2021–09/2021	Financial Management and Markets (NUS Chinese-EMBA), by Ben Charoenwong
01/2019–07/2019	Basic Statistics and Introductory Econometrics (CUHKSZ Bachelor), by Liu Ming
07/2018–11/2018	Financial Management for Decision Making (UQ Master), by Ronghong Huang

CONFERENCE DISCUSSION

2023	Singapore Scholars Symposium, Financial Management Association Conference, Eastern Finance Association Conference
2022	Australasian Finance and Banking Conference, International Society for the Advancement of Financial Economics' Conference, Singapore Scholars Symposium
2019	Asian Finance Association Conference

OTHER ACADEMIC ACTIVITIES

2023	Financial Management Association Doctoral Student Consortium
2020&22	SoFiE Financial Econometrics Summer School, SAIF-CAFR Financial Research Summer Camp

2020	NTU-NUS Exchange Program
2019	Research Assistantship for Ben Charoenwong (NUS)
2016	Winter Research Program for Robert Faff (UQ)

INDUSTRIAL EXPERIENCES

02/2017–02/2018 Lianxun Capital, Private Equity Investment & Funding Assistant, Shenzhen China

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

2016–present	Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA), Candidate, Pass Level III exam
2013–present	Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (ACCA), Affiliate, Pass all exams

HONORS, AWARDS & SCHOLARSHIPS

2023	AFA Travel Grant, EFA Travel Grant, NUS Conference Financial Assistance
2019	NUS Research Scholarship, UQ University Medal
2018	UQ 1st Class Honors, UQ Research Colloquium Best Written Award, UQ Frank Finn Scholarship, UQ Dean’s Commendations for Academic Excellence
2016	UQ Winter Research Scholarship, GDUFS ACCA Scholarship, UQ Dean’s Commendations for Academic Excellence
2014	GDUFS Merit Student, UQ Dean’s Commendations for Academic Excellence
2013	GDUFS Second- and Third-Class Scholarship

LANGUAGES

English, Mandarin, Cantonese

COMPUTER SKILLS

R, SAS, Stata, Python, \LaTeX

REFERENCES

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