## Thu N.M. Nguyen

Amsterdam Business School, University of Amsterdam

Plantage Muidergracht 12, 1018 TV Amsterdam, Netherlands

E: n.m.t.nguyen@uva.nl

T: +31 (0) 6 33 99 70 52

W: www.thunguyennm.com

Nationality: Vietnamese, Dutch Gender: Female; Pronouns: She/her

### Research Interests

Empirical asset pricing, institutional investors, asset management, and demand-based asset pricing.

### Education

# PhD Candidate in Finance 09.2021-present University of Amsterdam & Tinbergen Institute, Netherlands Supervisors: Aleksandar Andonov and Esther Eiling

MPhil Economics 09.2019–08.2021

Tinbergen Institute & Erasmus University Rotterdam, Netherlands

Specialization: Econometrics and Finance

### BSc Econometrics & Operations Research 09.2016–08.2019

Maastricht University, Netherlands

Honors and Cum Laude

### Education Abroad Program 09.2018–12.2018

University of California, Los Angeles, United States

### International Baccalaureate Diploma 07.2014–06.2016

Auckland International College, New Zealand

### Working Papers

### 1. Market Concentration, Capital Misallocation, and Asset Pricing [Link]

Job market paper

Best PhD Paper Award at the 7th Asset Pricing Conference by LTI@UniTo

Superstar firms, which dominate markets through their large size and high markups, can deter efficient capital allocation across firms. This paper empirically studies the asset pricing implications of superstar firms through the channel of capital misallocation, typically measured as the cross-sectional dispersion in the marginal product of capital (MPK). I decompose this measure into misallocation (1) among superstars, (2) among other firms, and (3) between these two groups. I find that only shocks to the third component, termed the "MPK spread", are negatively priced

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in the cross-section of stock returns. Stocks negatively exposed to these shocks outperform stocks with positive exposure by 4.8% per year. In the long run, a higher MPK spread predicts lower economic growth and aggregate stock returns, while in the short run, it predicts lower innovation growth. Consistent with the ICAPM framework, capital misallocation between superstar and non-superstar firms is a key state variable, and its shocks capture a macroeconomic risk factor.

# 2. Intermediary Asset Pricing Through the Lens of a Demand System [Link] with Dongryeol Lee (PhD Candidate, UCLA)

How does broker-dealers' leverage influence asset pricing while their assets under management are relatively small? We explore the channel through which broker-dealers extend leverage to hedge funds. Using equity holdings data, we estimate a characteristic-based demand system of each type of institution. Consistent with leverage constraints, broker-dealers exhibit inelastic demand, while hedge funds' demand is more elastic. Hedge funds also exert the largest price impact across all stocks. On average, a one percentage point increase in leverage raises the price impact for the average hedge fund with a 10% demand shock on all stocks by 1.7% and on least liquid stocks by 5.0% in the following year. During recessions, hedge funds' demand explains approximately 11% of the cross-sectional variance in stock returns, while broker-dealers explain almost zero percent. Besides, the return variance explained by hedge funds is larger for stocks with higher exposure to the leverage factor. These findings confirm that hedge funds significantly influence stock prices when broker-dealers' leverage constraints are binding.

### 3. Overlapping Factors [Link]

Characteristic-based factors, such as value, momentum, and low volatility, are constructed from the same universe of stocks. Therefore, they can contain some of the same stocks. Although the degree of overlap among these factors is not excessive, I find that the overlap matters. Stocks included simultaneously in the same leg across multiple factors, so-called overlapping stocks, earn an average abnormal return of 66 basis points per month. In contrast, pure factor stocks included in a single factor earn on average, across all factors, only 5 basis points per month, despite similar characteristics, industry composition, institutional ownership, and portfolio turnover. Further, the portfolio of overlapping stocks is priced in the cross-section of stock returns, while the portfolio of all pure factor stocks is not. Exposures to macroeconomic and liquidity risks cannot explain the return difference. Only in the short leg, overlapping stocks are more exposed to investor sentiment and have a higher short interest than pure factor stocks.

### Seminars and Conferences

### Market Concentration, Capital Misallocation, and Asset Pricing

AFA/ASSA PhD Student Poster Session, San Francisco 2025; Nederlandse Economendag, Den Haag 2024; 7th Asset Pricing Conference by LTI@UniTo, Turin 2024; C.R.E.D.I.T. Poster Session, Venice 2024; ICMA Doctoral Finance Symposium, Reading 2024; University of Amsterdam Finance Brownbag Seminar, Amsterdam 2024; Tinbergen Institute PhD Seminar, Amsterdam 2024;

University of Amsterdam PhD Seminar, Amsterdam 2024.

### Intermediary Asset Pricing Through the Lens of a Demand System

University of Amsterdam Finance Brownbag Seminar, Amsterdam 2023; University of Amsterdam PhD Seminar, Amsterdam 2023.

### **Overlapping Factors**

Frontiers of Factor Investing Conference, Lancaster 2022; University of Amsterdam Finance Brownbag Seminar, Amsterdam 2022; University of Amsterdam PhD Seminar, Amsterdam 2022.

### Discussion

Discussion	
ICMA Doctoral Finance Symposium	2024
Teaching Experience	
Bachelor thesis supervision, University of Amsterdam	2022-present
Tutorials, University of Amsterdam	
$\bullet$ Investment and Portfolio Theory II, 3rd-year BSc course	2025
• Finance 1, 2nd-year BSc course Evaluation 2023: 4.8/5.0	2023–present
• Financial Economics and Quantitative Methods, MSc Law and Finance Evaluation 2023: $4.7/5.0$ , 2022: $4.7/5.0$ , 2021: $4.8/5.0$	2021–present
Tutorials, Tinbergen Institute	
• Asset Pricing, PhD course	2021
• Principles of Programming in Econometrics, PhD course	2020
Scholarships and Awards	
AFA Travel Grant	2025
Best PhD Paper Award, 7th Asset Pricing Conference by LTI@UniTo	2024
EFA Travel Grant	2024
Thesis Prize in Econometrics, Maastricht University	2020
Scholarship for the MPhil program, Tinbergen Institute	2019–2021
Cum Laude and Honors Degree, Maastricht University	2019
Dean's List and Effort Award, Auckland International College	2016
Gifted Student Scholarship, Auckland International College	2014-2016
First Place, American Protege International Music Talent Competition Performed at Carnegie Hall, New York	2015

Instrument: Dan Tranh (traditional Vietnamese zither)

### Professional Experience

Investment Intern, Partners Group AG, Switzerland and Colorado, US 06.2019–08.2019

### Academic Service

PhD council member

02.2023-present

Faculty of Economics and Business, University of Amsterdam

Conference organization assistant

International Centre for Pension Management (ICPM) Utrecht Discussion Forum 06.2024

EFA 50th Annual Meeting

08.2023

Member, Beta Gamma Sigma Academic Honor Society

09.2019-present

Academic Honor Society for outstanding students in AACSB International accredited schools

**Miscellaneous** 

Software: Stata, R, SQL, LATEX

Languages: Vietnamese (native), English (fluent), Dutch (B1 limited working proficiency)

Placement Director

Eric Bartelsman

Tinbergen Institute

E: e.j.bartelsman@tinbergen.nl

References

Aleksandar Andonov Arnoud Boot Esther Eiling

University of Amsterdam University of Amsterdam University of Amsterdam

E: a.andonov@uva.nl E: a.w.a.boot@uva.nl E: e.eiling@uva.nl