

POUYAN FOROUGHI

CONTACT INFORMATION Schulich School of Business, N217 *Office: +1 (416) 736 5096 (Ext. 77921)*
York University *E-mail: foroughi@yorku.ca*
Toronto, ON M3J 1P3, Canada

ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT Assistant Professor of Finance *October 2019 - present*
Schulich School of Business, York University

Assistant Professor of Finance *September 2017 - September 2019*
University of New South Wales (UNSW) Business School, School of Banking and Finance,

EDUCATION Ph.D. in Finance *2012 - 2017*
Boston College, Carroll School of Management Chestnut Hill, MA

MBA, major Finance *2009 - 2012*
Sharif University of Technology, Graduate School of Management and Economics Tehran, Iran

B.Sc. in Electrical Engineering *2004 - 2009*
Sharif University of Technology, Department of Electrical Engineering Tehran, Iran

RESEARCH INTERESTS Corporate Finance, Corporate Governance, Financial Institutions and Social Networks

PUBLICATIONS Peer Effects in Corporate Governance Practices: Evidence from Universal Demand Laws (with Alan Marcus, Vinh Nguyen, and Hassan Tehranian), 2021, **Review of Financial Studies**, *accepted*
– *Midwest Finance Association Outstanding Paper Award, MFA annual meeting, 2019*
– *Semifinalist for Best Paper Award in Corporate Finance, FMA annual meeting, 2016*

Investor Protection and the Long-Run Performance of Activism (with Namho Kang, Gideon Ozik, and Ronnie Sadka), 2019, **Journal of Financial and Quantitative Analysis**, 54(1), 61-100

WORKING PAPERS • Hedge Fund Activists' Network and Information Flow
Best Paper Award at:
– *WFA Cubist Systematic Strategies Ph.D. Candidate Award for Outstanding Research, WFA annual meeting, 2017*
– *Best Paper Award in Honor of Stuart I. Greenbaum, Olin School of Business at Washington University in St. Louis, 2016*
Abstract: This paper studies connections and information flows between activist hedge funds and other institutional investors and shows them as prominent factors in the success of activist campaigns. Using manager turnovers in connected mutual funds as exogenous shocks to activists' connectivity, I identify a positive causal effect of connections with other investors on the short-run and long-run performance of activists' campaigns. I also show that the two likely mechanisms through which activists benefit from their relationships with other institutions are information flows between institutional shareholders and well-connected activists before campaign announcements and higher support from other shareholders during the campaign.

• Corporate Pensions and Financial Distress (with Ying Duan, Edith S. Hotchkiss, and Yawen Jiao)
Abstract: We examine the role of corporate pension plans in determining how firms restructure in financial distress. Both defined benefit (DB) and defined contribution (DC) plans can have

significant exposures to the company's own stock, imposing significant losses on employees if the firm defaults and/or files for bankruptcy. We find that firms with DB plans typically have little exposure to the stock prior to default; the degree of underfunding increases significantly as firms near default, but is not related to restructuring types (bankruptcies versus out of court restructurings). In contrast, large exposures to company stock in DC plans often are not reduced prior to default. High levels of own-company stock ownership are positively related to default and bankruptcy probabilities. Our evidence suggests a link between employee-ownership related managerial entrenchment and default risk.

- Are Hedge Funds More Skilled than Other Institutional Investors? Evidence from Their Use of Insider Trading Information (with Jerry Parwada, Yixuan Rui and Jianfeng Shen)

Abstract: This study examines the use of insider trading information by hedge funds. We find that hedge funds tend to trade in the same direction as insiders when insider trading is likely driven by information, but do not respond to likely liquidity-driven insider trades. This finding is consistent with hedge funds being able to decipher insider trading information and trade accordingly. In contrast, mutual funds, pension funds and other institutional investors (mostly banks and insurance companies) are more likely to trade in the opposite direction as insiders, acting as liquidity providers regardless of the trading motives of insiders. Further, there is evidence that a hedge fund's ability to exploit insider trading information helps improve its performance. Our study contributes to the literature on hedge fund skills by showing their ability to exploit insider information and linking such ability to performance.

HONORS AND AWARDS

- Midwest Finance Association Outstanding Paper Award, MFA annual meeting, 2019
- WFA Cubist Systematic Strategies Ph.D. Candidate Award for Outstanding Research, WFA annual meeting, 2017
- Best Paper Award in Honor of Stuart I. Greenbaum, Olin School of Business at Washington University in St. Louis, 2016
- Semi-finalist for the Best Paper Award in Corporate Finance, FMA Annual Meeting, 2016
- Doctoral Student Consortium, FMA Annual Meeting, 2016
- Doctoral Student Travel Grant, AFA Annual Meeting, 2016
- Doctoral Fellowship, Boston College, Carroll School of Management, 2012

TEACHING

Schulich School of Business, York University

- Introduction to Finance (FINE 2000), undergraduate level Fall 2020
- Managerial Finance (FINE 5200), graduate level Summer 2020

UNSW Business School, School of Banking and Finance

- Business Finance (FIN1613), undergraduate level S1, 2018; T2, 2019
- International Corporate Governance (FINS3626), undergraduate level S1, 2018; T2, 2019
- International Corporate Governance (FINS5526), graduate level S1, 2018; T2, 2019

Boston College, Carroll School of Management (as a teaching assistant)

- Corporate Finance, Financial Policy, Corporate Valuation and Restructuring, Basic Finance

CONFERENCE AND
SEMINAR
PRESENTATIONS

(includes conference presentations by co-authors)

- 2019: European Finance Association (EFA), Financial Intermediation Research Society (FIRS), Midwest Finance Association (MFA), China International Conference in Finance (CICF), Western Economic Association International (WEAI), York University
- 2018: NFA, Financial Research Network (FIRN), Melbourne Business School, University of Technology Sydney, University of Sydney Business School Financing and Banking Research Group (FRG), UNSW, Finance Down Under (FDU), University of Hong Kong, Australasian Finance & Banking Conference (AFBC)
- 2017: Western Finance Association (WFA), University of New South Wales, Monash University, University of Albany, University of Connecticut, Financial Research Network (FIRN), Australasian Finance & Banking Conference (AFBC)
- 2016: Financial Management Association (FMA), Annual Corporate Finance Conference, China International Conference in Finance (CICF), Boston College, Cornerstone Research, Suffolk University
- 2015: American Finance Association (AFA)
- 2014: European Finance Association (EFA), Hedge Fund Research Conference

PROFESSIONAL
ACTIVITIES

- Discussant: Sydney Business Financing and Banking Research Group Workshop (2018), Financial Research Network (2017, 2018), Australasian Finance & Banking Conference (2017, 2018)
- Session chair: Australasian Finance & Banking Conference (2018)
- Referee: Review of Financial Studies (RFS), Journal of Financial Economics (JFE), Journal of Banking and Finance, Journal of Empirical Finance
- Editorial board: Risk Governance & Control: Financial Markets & Institutions
- Membership: Western Finance Association, American Finance Association, European Finance Association, Financial Management Association, Northern Finance Association

MEDIA COVERAGE

- “Why activist hedge funds are not just working alone”
 - Centre for Management Practice, Singapore Management University (SMU), 31 Aug 2018
 - Business Think, University of New South Wales (UNSW), August 15, 2018