Yifei Zhang

PhD Candidate in Economics
Toulouse School of Economics (TSE)
1, Esplanade de l'Université
31080 Toulouse Cedex 06, France

Phone: (+33) 637818499
Email: yifei.zhang@tse-fr.eu
Homepage: https://www.tse-fr.eu/people/yifei-zhang/
Nationality: Chinese

Research Fields

Major Fields: Empirical Corporate Finance

Secondary Fields: Economics of Innovation, Entrepreneurial Finance, Textual Analysis

Referees on the Job Market

Ulrich Hege (Chair)
Professor and the Vice-President
Toulouse School of Economics
ulrich.hege@tse-fr.eu

Milo Bianchi
Professor in Finance
Toulouse School of Economics
milo.bianchi@tse-fr.eu

Patrick Coen
Assistant Professor in Economics
Toulouse School of Economics
patrick.coen@tse-fr.eu

Florian Ederer
Associate Professor in Economics
Yale University, School of Management
florian.ederer@yale.edu

Education

Ph.D. Economics, Toulouse School of Economics, 2016 – 2022 (expected).

Visiting PhD Student, Yale University, 2019.

M.A. Economics, Toulouse School of Economics, 2016.

M.A. Economics, State University of New York at Stony Brook, 2014.

B.A. Economics, Shanghai Normal University, 2012.

Academic Visiting

Yale University, School of Management, Fall 2019.

HEC, Paris, January 2018 & April 2019.

Working Paper

Corporate Venture Capital and Firm Scope (Job Market Paper).

On the regular program of the American Finance Association Annual Meeting (2022)
On the program of the European Finance Association – Doctoral Tutorial (2021)

Presented at: the 3rd Paris Dauphine Finance PhD Workshop (2020); The 17th Corporate Finance Day (2020); Econometric Society European Winter Meeting (2020); Wharton Innovation Doctoral Symposium (2021); Eastern Finance Association (2021)

Abstract: (will be updated later) This paper investigates the effects of corporate venture capital (CVC) on the restructuring and product innovation of the CVC parent corporation. Using two different identification strategies (the fund inflow shock of past-connected VC firms and the US new airline route), I document that CVC could spur its parent firm's restructuring decisions: creating a new division in an emerging industry, the removal of an existing but old division, changing the primary corporate industry (in the long term), and the product innovation. A CVC parent is more likely to establish a new division in the industry where it has sprayed CVC deals before. Furthermore, the post-CVC value enhancement derives mostly from post-CVC restructuring.

Activism Pressure and The Market for Corporate Assets, with Ulrich Hege (Toulouse School of Economics).

On the regular program of the American Finance Association Annual Meeting (2020)
Presented at Monash University (2019); Toulouse Business School (2019).
Featured on the Columbia Law School Blue Sky Blog (Link)

Abstract: We investigate the impact of hedge fund activism on corporate transaction markets. We find that activism targets as well as firms exposed to hedge fund threats receive more merger bids, increase divestitures and make fewer acquisitions, with the acquisition effect concentrated among large firms. We document that the majority of activist campaigns are clustered by industry and estimate that the simultaneous increase in asset sales and decrease in acquisitions in such activism clusters reduce real asset liquidity for asset sellers by about 35%. The liquidity squeeze produces two effects: transaction prices are reduced, and industry outsiders provide liquidity by purchasing more industry assets. Looking at short-term price pressure and long-run performance, we present evidence that transactions by activist targets are less affected by the reduced asset liquidity than those of other firms.

Hedge Fund Activism, Corporate Governance, and Product Market Competition

On the program of Northern Finance Association (NFA) (2020, PhD Session)
Presented at TSE Finance Workshop (2017)

Abstract: This paper investigates the threefold relationship among the target impact of hedge fund activism, the initial governance of target firms, and product market competition. I first document two interlinked puzzles that (i) there is complementarity between hedge fund activism and initial governance of target firms, especially in relative competitive industries, in the process of unlocking firm values during the campaigns; and (ii) among all target firms, initial good governance firms operated in relative competitive industries experience the most substantial improvement of firm value after activist campaigns. Then, I provide novel explanations to the puzzle through investigating the success likelihood of campaigns. Activist hedge funds take advantage of the ease with shaking up the management team, especially on those initial good governance firms operated in relative competitive industries, to pursue short-term objectives at the cost of long-term firm value.

Conference Discussion

The 17th Corporate Finance Day (2020) – Discussing "Labor Reactions to Credit Deterioration: Evidence from LinkedIn Activity". By Jeff Gortmaker, Harvard Business School; Jessica Jeffers, University of Chicago, Booth; Michael Junho Lee, New York Fed.

Wharton Innovation Doctoral Symposium (2021) – Discussing "To Be or Not To Be: Offline Complementors Decision to Join Entrant Platforms" Christine Choi, University of Michigan

Eastern Finance Association (2021) – Discussing "Motivating Inventors: Non-competes, Innovation Value and Efficiency" Zhaozhao He, University of New Hampshire

2018 TSE Student Workshop – Co-organizer

Teaching Experience

Advanced Microeconomics (undergraduate), 2018-2020.

Introduction to Econometrics (undergraduate), 2019-2020.

Industrial Organization (undergraduate), 2019-2020.

Introduction to Microeconomics (undergraduate), 2020.

Introduction to Macroeconomics (undergraduate), 2020.

Award

AFA 2020 (San Diego) PhD Student Travel Grant, 2020.

EUR Mobility Grant (Visiting Yale SOM) – Toulouse School of Economics, 2019.

The Marty Weinbaum Award for Academic Achievement – State University of New York at Stony Brook, 2014.

Scholarship for Academic Excellence – Shanghai Normal University, 2010 – 2012.

Last updated: June 5, 2021