
CONTACT INFORMATION Finance Department, Gies School of Business 727-858-6066
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CURRENT EDUCATION **University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign**
Ph.D. candidate, Finance 2019 - Present

DEGREES HELD **University of South Florida**
B.S., Quantitative Economics and Econometrics, *Summa Cum Laude* 2016 - 2018
Minor: Mathematics

WORKING PAPERS **“Pulling the Plug: Retail Traders and Social Media”**
(Job Market Paper)

This paper uses days on which social media platform connectivity is exogenously interrupted to study social media’s impact on retail trading. It provides evidence consistent with social media platforms spreading fanatical optimism rather than rational beliefs. On “outage” days, social media-discussed stocks experience an increase in retail trading volume concentrated in selling during the first 2 hours of the outage. Social media-discussed stocks experience a price decline that reverses over the next day following the outage. These results can be explained by a theoretical model of fanatical optimism and are robust to a battery of alternative explanations. The paper’s findings highlight the important role of social media on retail traders’ belief formation and its stock market consequences.

“House of Stolen Cards: Payment Security and Lending Decisions”
(with Divij Kohli)

Credit card frauds are one of the most prevalent forms of identity theft. These frauds pose a unique problem to banks. Under the Fair Credit Billing Act (1974), banks are generally liable for fraudulent transactions, not the consumer. Banks want consumers to spend to generate transaction fees, but also want to minimize their liability to fraud. Research on these frauds has been limited due to data constraints. Exploiting a quirk of credit card reporting, we are able to observe these fraudulent cards in credit bureau data. We then document that banks did restrict credit to individuals exposed to fraud; stopping the increasing trend in their credit. We then examine the impact of a government initiative to widely roll out chip cards in the US market. Following increased payment security in the form of the chip-enabled cards, banks no longer restrict fraud exposed individuals’ credit. Prior fraud exposed cohorts also experience a jump in their credit limits when chip cards are rolled out. These results are consistent with payment security lessening fraud risk to banks and document the importance of payment security in the consumer credit markets.

WORK IN PROGRESS **“The Value of Truth in Social Media: Retail Traders and Reddit Ban Bets”**
(with Corbin Fox)

TEACHING	<p>TA: Big Data Analytics (Graduate Level) 2024 Head Professor: Julian Reif Department of Finance, UIUC</p> <p>TA: Corporate Finance (Undergraduate Level) 2021-2022 Head Professor: Michael Dyer Department of Finance, UIUC</p> <p><i>Included on List of Instructors Rated Excellent by Their Students</i></p>
SEMINARS & CONFERENCES (* = CO-AUTHOR PRESENTATION	<p>2024: Financial Management Association Annual Meeting (scheduled), Midwestern Finance Association Ph.D. Symposium, Brown Bag at University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign * , Southwestern Finance Association Annual Meeting, Eastern Finance Association Annual Meeting</p> <p>2023: Financial Management Association Annual Meeting, Brown Bag at University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign</p> <p>2022: University of South Florida, Economics of Financial Technology Conference, Southern Finance Association Annual Meeting</p> <p>2021: Brown Bag at University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Latin American and Caribbean Economic Association (LACEA)</p>
REFEREEING ACTIVITY	Journal of Financial Research, The Financial Review
SERVICE	<p>Program Committee</p> <p>Southern Finance Association 2022 Annual Meeting, Southwestern Finance Association 2024 Annual Meeting, Eastern Finance Association 2024 Annual Meeting, Southern Finance Association 2024 Annual Meeting</p> <p>Organizer of Monday Finance Ph.D. Student Seminar Series 2023-Present</p> <p>Co-Organizer of UIUC Ph.D. Reading Group 2020-Present</p> <p>Co-Host of UIUC Finance Brown Bag 2021-2023</p> <p>Session Chair</p> <p>Latin American and Caribbean Economic Association (LACEA) 2021, Economics of Financial Technology Conference 2022, Southwestern Finance Association Annual Meeting 2024</p>
INVITED GUEST LECTURES	Spring 2023, Spring 2024: "Retail Traders and How We Think" for the course: Financial Institutions and Markets (FinTech approach) at the University of Georgia, Athens
HONORS AND AWARDS	<p>Robert Ferber Award Summer 2024</p> <p>Schewe Fellowship 2023-2024</p> <p>Zwisler Fellowship Summer 2022</p> <p>Included on List of Instructors Rated Excellent by Their Students 2021</p> <p>State Farm Doctoral Fellowship 2019-2020</p>
OTHER EXPERIENCE	Junior Analyst - Ballast Point Ventures July 2018 - July 2019