
ALI SHIRAZI

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APPOINTMENT

JULY 2022 Assistant Professor of Finance (Tenure Track), Saint Mary's University, Sobey School of Business

EDUCATION

- **HEC Montréal** **2022**
PhD in Finance
- **Concordia University** **2015**
MA in Economics
- **University of Tehran** **2006**
BA in Economics

WORKING PAPERS

- 2021** **Granular Gravity: Equity-Bond Returns & Correlation** , Job Market Paper
- Investors care about the state of granularity, the heavy tail of firms' size distribution. I adapt and extend an existing granularity measure, and show that changes in granularity are negatively related to the cross-section of corporate bond returns. I verify that the risk-adjusted return on a strategy that provides effective hedge against granularity shocks is economically significant. I further document that the correlation between firms bond and equity returns is 50% higher when the economy becomes more granular than atomistic. Data supports the hypothesis that this arises from granularity being a priced factor in the cross-sections of both equity and corporate bond returns.
- PRESENTED AT** HEC Montréal Finance Seminars (March 2021), HEC Montréal PhD Brownbags (March 2021), Global Finance Conference (May 2021), World Finance Conference (2021), NOVA Finance PhD Countdown (2021), Bank of Canada (2021), Southern Finance Conference (2021), Ryerson University, University of Manitoba (2021), Saint Mary's University (2021), UQAM (2022), Dalhousie University (2022), Financial Management Association Annual Conference (2023).
- 2020** **Equity Prices in a Granular Economy**, with Harjoat Bhamra, Christian Dorion & Alexandre Jeanneret
- This paper studies the asset pricing implications of a granular economy. When some firms are more like 'grains' than atoms, shocks to such firms are not diversified away. We show in a multiple-firm model that the properties of the conditional CAPM change as the economy becomes more granular, i.e. when the largest firms represent a greater share of the economy. The slope of the Security Market Line (SML) decreases with granularity, thereby explaining the relatively 'flat' SML observed unconditionally. A direct implication is that the performance of the betting-against-beta strategy is particularly high when granularity increases, while it is low otherwise. We provide empirical support for these predictions for the U.S. stock market over the period 1973-2020. In addition, we find that the exposure to granularity is priced negatively in stocks, consistent with the view that more granularity increases aggregate risk and reduces diversification.
- PRESENTED AT** Northern Finance Association Annual Meeting (2020)*, Université Laval (2020)*, HEC-McGill Winter Workshop (2020)*, Saint Mary's University (2022), The University of Queensland (2023)*, The Australian National University (2023)*, European Finance Association Annual Meeting (2023), Financial Management Association Annual Conference (2023).

*Presented by co-author.

TEACHING

ROLE	Instructor
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2025	<i>Fixed Income Securities (Master of Finance) , SMU</i>
2024	<i>Theory of Asset Pricing (PhD), SMU</i> <i>Fixed Income Securities (Master of Finance) , SMU</i> <i>Business Finance (MBA) , SMU</i> <i>International Financial Management (B.Com) , SMU</i>
2023	<i>International Financial Management (B.Com) , SMU</i> <i>Fixed Income Securities (Master of Finance) , SMU</i> <i>Business Finance (MBA) , SMU</i>
2022	<i>Business Finance (B.Com) , SMU</i>
2021	<i>Futures and Options (B.Com.), HEC Montréal</i>
2011-2013	<i>Capital Budgeting (B.A Economics), University of Tehran</i>

ROLE	Co-Instructor & Teaching Assistant
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2021	<i>Derivatives Pricing (M.Sc.), HEC Montréal</i>
2020	<i>Market Risk Management (M.Sc.) , McGill University</i>
2018	<i>Financial Econometrics (M.Sc.), Corporate Finance (B.Com.), HEC Montréal</i>

SCHOLARSHIPS & AWARDS

2022	New Faculty Research Fund. 25,000 CAD <i>Saint Mary's University</i>
2022	The Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research. 5,000 CAD <i>Saint Mary's University</i>
2021	The Bank of Canada Graduate Student Paper Award (<i>runner-up</i>). 1,000 CAD <i>By The Bank of Canada</i>
2020	SSRCH Doctoral Fellowship. 20,000 CAD <i>By Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council</i>
2020	Travel Grant . 750 USD <i>By American Finance Association</i>
2019	Pierre Arbour PhD Scholarship . 17,000 CAD <i>By Pierre Arbour Foundation</i>
2019	Hydro Québec PhD Scholarship . 20,000 CAD <i>By Hydro Québec</i>
2018	Jean-Louis Mercier PhD Scholarship . 6,000 CAD <i>By Jean-Louis Mercier</i>
2016-20	PhD Admission Scholarship. 80,000 CAD <i>By HEC Montréal</i>
2015	Graduation Excellence Award. 2,000 CAD <i>By Concordia University</i>

DISCUSSIONS

2024	Discussion of <i>Two Trees with a Gardener: Asset Pricing with Real Capital Flows</i> by Sebastien Betermier, Laurent Calvet, Evan Jo, and Johan Walden. Junior Faculty Conference, McGill University, Montreal, Canada.
2022	Discussion of <i>Learning about the consumption risk exposure of firms.</i> by Yongjin Kim, Lars Alexandre Kuhen, and Kai Li. Northern Finance Association Conference in Banff, Canada.
2021	Discussion of <i>Is idiosyncratic risk priced? The international evidence.</i> by Paul Brockman, Tao Gou, and Maria Vivero, and Wayne Yu. World Finance Conference. On-line.

REVIEW COMMITTEES

2024	Northern Finance Association, Midwest Finance Association
2023	Northern Finance Association
2022	Midwest Finance Association

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

2021	Society of Financial Econometrics (SoFiE) Summer School Kellogg School of business. Chicago, Illinois, USA (Virtual)
2019	Society of Financial Econometrics (SoFiE) Summer School Kellogg School of business. Chicago, Illinois, USA.
2018	Academic Writing Workshop HEC Montréal
2018	CEAR-RSI Household Finance Workshop Hotel Saint Sulpice. Montréal, Canada.

OTHER

SERVICE	Strategic Planning Committee (Sobey School of business). Academic Program Review Committee (SMU) Certificate in Data Analytics Committee (SMU)
CITIZENSHIP	Canadian, Iranian
LANGUAGES	English (Fluent), French (B2), Arabic (Fluent), Persian (Native).
SOFTSKILLS	MATLAB, Python, SAS, L ^A T _E X
CERTIFICATE	CFA Level I passed, June 2015