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Education

Ph.D. in Finance¹
Sep. 1998 – May. 2003

University of North Carolina, Kenan-Flagler Business
School, Chapel Hill, NC

M.S. in Economics²
Oct. 1997 – July 1998

Université de Lausanne, Lausanne, Switzerland

MBA
Mar. 1995 – Nov. 1996

China Europe International Business School, Shanghai

Bachelor of Engineering
Sep. 1986 – July 1990

Shanghai Jiao Tong University

Areas of Interest

Research

Real Estate Mutual Fund, Merger and Acquisition

Teaching

Corporate Finance, Derivatives, Fixed Income, International
Finance

Research

Refereed Publication

Motivation behind the Acquisitions of Mutual Fund, by Xiyu (Thomas) Zhou and Kevin Chiang, *Corporate Finance Review*, Sep./Oct. 2007, 19-26.

Emerging Market Bonds as an Asset Class: Mean-Variations Spanning, by Chiang, Kevin, Craig Wizen and Xiyu (Thomas) Zhou, *Journal of Investing*, Fall 2007, 104-110.

Mutual Fund Post-Acquisition Management Retention and Its Performance Implication, by Zhou, Xiyu (Thomas) and Kevin Chiang, *Corporate Finance Review*, May/June 2007, 28-34.

Mutual Fund Acquisitions and Target Shareholders' Wealth, by Zhou, Xiyu (Thomas), Kevin Chiang and Craig Wisen, *Journal of American Academy Business*, March 2007, 33-38

Country Specific Risk and Returns, by Chiang, Kevin, Ashley Kung and Xiyu (Thomas) Zhou, *Journal of Business and Economic Perspectives*, Fall/Winter 2006, 28-38

¹ Dissertation defended in summer 2004, degree awarded in Dec. 2004.

² Theses defended in Dec. 1998, degree awarded in Mar. 1999.

Working Papers

Information Advantages, Market Frictions and Risk Preference: An Examination of the Holding of the Real Estate Mutual Funds (revised and resubmitted)

(Kevin Chiang, Seow Eng Ong, Craig H. Wisen and Xiyu (Thomas) Zhou)

The holding preferences of open-end mutual funds that specialize in real estate investment trusts (REITs) help to reveal potential sources of informational advantage, market friction and risk preferences of fund managers. The assessment of the portfolios of real estate mutual funds for the decade ending in 2005 reveals that managers have a general aversion for REITs with high levels of systemic risk and a preference towards REITs with favorable recent returns and greater liquidity. The holding preference toward REITs with greater liquidity has two implications: (1) real estate mutual funds are sensitive to transactions costs, and/or (2) real estate mutual funds do not have informational advantages in illiquid REITs.

Organization Design, Asset Allocation and Mutual Fund Performance

(Eitan Goldman and Xiyu (Thomas) Zhou)

We demonstrate that the performance of actively-managed equity mutual funds varies cross-sectionally with several portfolio characteristics. In particular, performance increases when a larger fraction of the portfolio is concentrated within the top ten asset holdings and when the portfolio is focused on a small number of sectors. These cross sectional results are robust to controlling for other portfolio and fund characteristics such as number of assets in portfolio, size, fees, turnover ratio, and investment objective. We believe the enhanced return results from the better organization design so capital could be moved freely fund-wide and management is highly motivated.

Staggered boards and investor perceptions of earning quality (Under revision)

(Yijiang Zhao, Mike Davis and Xiyu (Thomas) Zhou)

We examine the relationship between staggered boards and investor perceptions of earnings quality. Using earnings response coefficients from contemporaneous returns-earnings regressions as a proxy for investor perceptions of earnings quality, we find that the magnitude of the earnings response coefficient is higher for firms with staggered boards. The evidence suggests that investors view staggered boards as constraining earnings management and thus enhancing earnings quality. One policy implication of this study is that regulators and shareholders should be cautious in demolishing staggered boards.

Do Aggressive Funds Reallocate Their Portfolios Aggressively? (Under revision)

This study examines pairs of asset allocation mutual funds that are controlled for all informational attributes, except for the level of risk aversion. Standard mean-variance models of portfolio choice suggest that the percentage rebalancing of common stocks in aggressive funds would be the same as that in conservative funds. However, the study finds the rebalancing of common stocks in aggressive funds to be disproportionately less intense.

Working in Progress

The Strategic Setting of Real Estate Mutual Fund Expense Ratio

(Kevin Chiang, David Hartzell, Craig Wisen and Xiyu (Thomas) Zhou)

We apply a revised dual-city model in industry economics to establish the relationship between real estate mutual fund fees and its past performance, size, age, as well as the fund family's characteristics, such as performance, size, number of Morningstar Investment Categories.

Conference Proceedings

May 2008	Hawaii	Hawaii International Conferences on Businesses Organization Design, asset allocation and mutual fund performance Do aggressive funds reallocate their portfolios aggressively?
April 2008	Dayton	Ohio Regional Conference of American Assn. of Accountants Staggered boards and investor perceptions of earning quality (To be presented by co-author Yijiang Zhao)

Conference Presentations

Mar. 2008	San Antonio	Midwest Finance Association Meeting Motivation behind the Acquisitions of Mutual Fund
Jul. 2007	Singapore	APRU Real Estate Research Symposium Information Advantages, Market Frictions and Risk Preference: An Examination of the Holding of the Real Estate Mutual Funds, paper presented by co-author Craig Wisen
Mar. 2007	Minneapolis	Midwest Finance Association Meeting Mutual Fund Post-Acquisition Management Retention and Its Performance Implication
Oct. 2002	San Antonio	FMA Doctoral Student Consortium Sector Fund's Performance

University Service

Faculty Senator & Unit Criteria Subcommittee
Sep 2006 – May 2008

Affiliations

National Association of Real Estate Investment Trusts
American Finance Association
Financial Management Association

Business Experience

Internal Consultant (Boston Consulting Group, Shanghai)
Summer 1996

MBA Intern (Export Department, Audi AG Headquarter, Ingolstadt, Germany)
Jan. – Mar. 1996

Export Product Manager (Suzhou Foreign Trade Corp., Suzhou, China)
Sep. 1990 – Mar. 1995

References

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