

# Review of Finance

## Report from the Managing Editor

### Alex Edmans

### August 2021

---

## 1. Acknowledgements and Editorial Board Member Changes

We are very grateful to the Editorial Board and Editorial Team for helping to run the journal. Particular thanks to Referees who have reviewed papers promptly, diligently and applying high standards, and Authors who send us their best work.

The current members are:

**Editors:** Amit Goyal, Marcin Kacperczyk, Daniel Paravisini, Christine Parlour, Chris Parsons, Joel Peress, and Geoffrey Tate.

**Associate Editors:** Kenneth Ahern, Anna Cieslak, Patrick Bolton, Jonathan Cohn, Ian Dew-Becker, Ruediger Fahlenbrach, Cary Frydman, Xavier Giroud, Todd Gormley, Dirk Hackbarth, Samuel Hartzmark, Campbell Harvey, Clifford Holderness, Nandini Gupta, Mark Leary, Alexander Ljungqvist, Lars Lochstoer, Andrey Malenko, David Martinez-Miera, Brian Melzer, Christian Opp, Paige Ouimet, Jacopo Ponticelli, David Solomon, Luke Taylor, Rick Townsend, Michela Verardo, and Yongxiang Wang.

**Advisory Editors:** Franklin Allen, Thorsten Beck, Jules van Binsbergen, Arnoud Boot, Amiyatosh Purnanandam, and Kelly Shue.

**Editorial Advisor:** Bogdan Stacescu.

**Editorial Managers:** Lucy Emmerson and Patricia Ponce.

## 2. The Impact Factor

The 2020-1 official impact factor of the Review of Finance is published by Clarivate on the Journal Citation Reports. The 2-year impact factor is **3.894** (3.840 excluding self-citations). This compares to 2.885 in 2019-20 and 1.906 in 2018-9, indicating strong forward momentum. We do not target the impact factor directly; instead, it is a by-product of applying high standards and aiming only to publish papers that substantially advance knowledge and are of broad interest to a general finance audience.

Part of the increase was due to a change in the way that impact factors are calculated; they now include Early Access articles. Excluding such articles, the impact factor would have increased to 3.298. The 5-year impact factor increased from 3.066 to 4.653.

**Table 1** compares the RF to other top finance journals.

**Table 1: 2020 Impact Factors, Top Finance Journals**

Journal name	2020 Impact Factor, Excluding Self-Citations	2020 Impact Factor	5 Year Impact Factor
Journal of Finance	7.022	7.544	11.753
Journal of Financial Economics	6.587	6.988	11.164
Review of Financial Studies	5.544	5.838	9.358
Journal of Financial Intermediation	4.679	5.179	5.552
<b>Review of Finance</b>	<b>3.840</b>	<b>3.894</b>	<b>4.653</b>
Journal of Corporate Finance	3.764	4.249	6.088
Journal of Financial and Quantitative Analysis	3.570	3.745	5.133
Journal of Banking & Finance	2.956	3.070	4.594

Figures 1, 2, and 3 show how the impact factors were calculated.

**Figure 1: 2020 Impact Factor Calculation for Review of Finance**

Citations in 2020 to items published in:	2019 = 118	Number of citable items in	2019 = 33
	2018 = 248		2018 = 61
	Sum: 366		Sum: 94

$$\text{Calculation} = \frac{\text{Citations to items published}}{\text{Number of citable items}} = \frac{366}{94} = 3.894$$

**Figure 2: 5 year Impact Factor Calculation for Review of Finance**

Citations in 2020 to items published in:	2019 = 118	Number of items published	2019 = 33
	2018 = 248		2018 = 61
	2017 = 389		2017 = 69
	2016 = 203		2016 = 70
	2015 = 396		2015 = 58
	Sum: 1,354		Sum: 291

$$\text{Calculation} = \frac{\text{Citations to items published}}{\text{Number of citable items}} = \frac{1354}{291} = 4.653$$

**Figure 3: 2020 Impact Factor (Excluding Self Citation) Information,  
Calculation for Review of Finance**

Self Cites to Years Used in Impact Factor Calculation (2018 & 2019):	5 (1.4% of 366)
Impact Factor without Self Cites:	3.840

$$\text{Calculation} = \frac{\text{Citations to items published} - \text{Self citations to items published}}{\text{Number of citable items}} \qquad (366-5) / 94 = 3.840$$

### 3. Editorial Statistics

#### 3.1 All Submissions

**Table 2** gives a breakdown of the latest statistical period 2020/21 and the comparable data for the last two years. During this period, there were a total of **978** submissions, up from **745** last year. This is a **record number of submissions**, and characterizes the five-year journey the *RF* has been on (and is still on). At the start of 2017, we announced strict top-three standards, a stringent desk-rejection policy and an increase in submission fees to reduce the number of left-tail submissions (and allow us to start paying referees). Submissions indeed dropped from 923 in 2016-7 to 704 in 2018-9.

2020-1 is the first time since that the *RF* exceeded the highest pre-2017 submission figures. This increase is likely due to the continuing improvement in the journal’s reputation and impact factor, as well as a large number of submissions for our Special Issue on China. **Figure 3** shows the behavior in submissions since 2005.

Despite the increasing number of submissions, the quality of papers submitted has remained at a high standard. The acceptance rate was **4.66%**, compared to **4.73%** last year, and marks the third successive year it has been below 5%.

This constantly high quality threshold means that the trend in number of submissions is echoed by the trend in the numbers of acceptances and R&Rs. The introduction of strict top-three standards led to the number of acceptances falling from 58 in 2016-7 to 28 in 2018-9 and the number of R&Rs falling from 87 to 43. In 2020-1 these numbers rebounded to **40** acceptances and **72** R&Rs due to the increase in submissions combined with the constant quality threshold.

Overall, the numbers of submissions, acceptances, and R&Rs are now in a similar ballpark to five years ago. However, the number of submissions is slightly higher and the numbers of acceptances and R&Rs are slightly lower, due to our low acceptance rate. Combined with the marked increase in our impact factor, this suggests that we are receiving a similar number of submissions but they are now of much higher quality. As shown in Section 6, this has allowed us to increase the number of papers published per issue from 5-6 to 9.

The editorial team has worked hard to reduce turnaround times this year, despite the difficult circumstances of the Covid-19 pandemic. Due to these efforts, and the hard work of our referees,

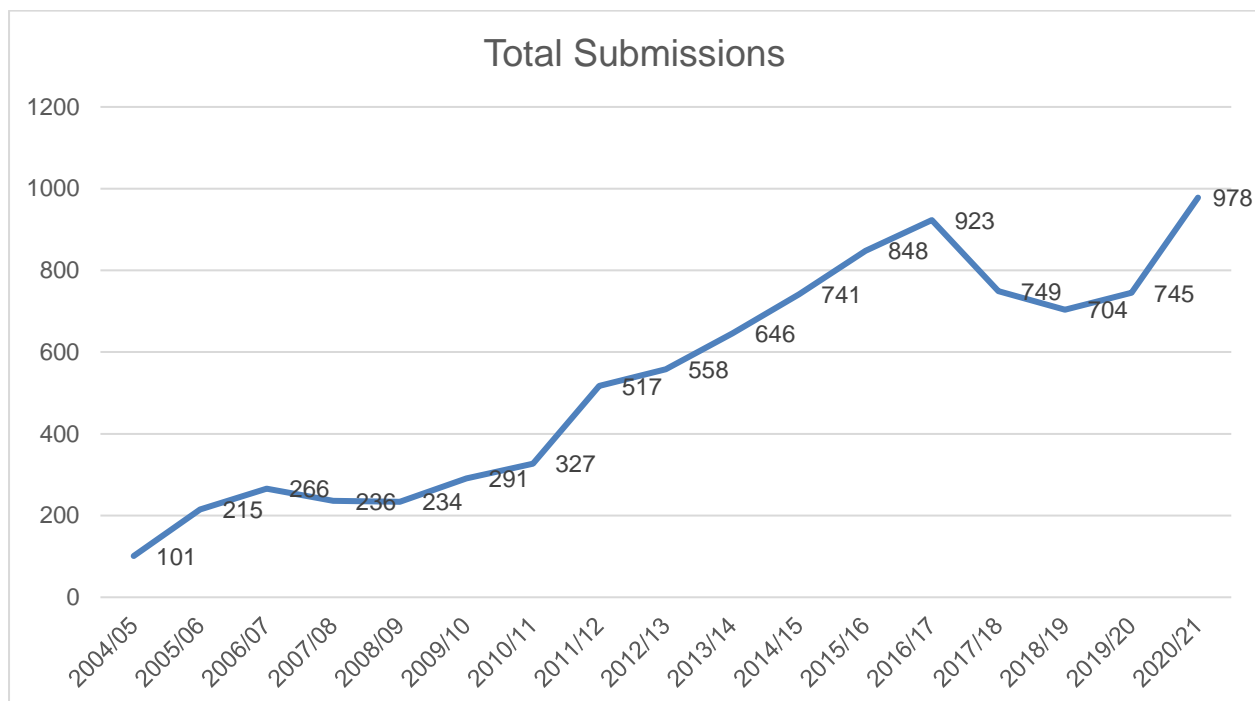
the mean turnaround time fell significantly from 54 to **44** days, and the median fell slightly from 33 to **32**.

**Table 2: Editorial Statistics for All Submissions**

*The following figures on submissions are based on all submissions and resubmissions received in the statistical period. The data on outcomes refers to all decisions made in the statistical period, regardless of the date of submission. The turnaround time is the number of days elapsed from the manuscript being entered in the database to notification of the editorial decision. The acceptance rate is the number of accepted manuscripts divided by the number of manuscript decisions that could be considered final (i.e. accepted or rejected); it excludes interim decisions (i.e. conditionally accepted or R&R) where the final decision is not yet known.*

Category	Count 2018/19	Count 2019/20	Count 2020/21
New submissions	646	679	900
Resubmissions	58	66	78
Requests for withdrawals	0	0	0
<b>Total Submissions</b>	<b>704</b>	<b>745</b>	<b>978</b>
Submissions Accepted	28	30	40
Submissions Conditionally Accepted	19	17	28
Submissions Returned for Revision	43	62	72
Submissions Summarily Rejected	182	165	249
Submissions Rejected	442	440	570
Submissions Withdrawn	1	0	1
<b>Total Decisions</b>	<b>715</b>	<b>714</b>	<b>960</b>
Submissions Pending at end of period	75	104	132
Mean Turnaround Time (days)	50	54	44
Median Turnaround Time (days)	36	33	32
Acceptance Rate	4.29%	4.73%	4.66%
Manuscripts accepted or conditionally accepted after one revision or fewer (% of those accepted)	75.0%	62.5%	67.0%
Mean number of revisions before acceptance or conditional acceptance	1.2	1.3	1.2
% of R&Rs issued in period eventually accepted	-	94.1%	96.0%
% of previous R&Rs accepted during the period	-	88.2%	93.0%

**Figure 3: Total Submissions**



### 3.3 Fast Track Submissions

**Table 3** provides statistics for Fast Track submissions for the 2020/21 period compared with the two previous periods. For this statistical period we received **97** Fast Track submissions. The Fast Track submission acceptance rate was **5.06%**, which is very similar to the overall acceptance rate of **4.66%**.

The majority (**80%**) of Fast Track submissions were processed within 14 days, with only 18 papers missing the deadline. The overall mean and median turnaround times are slightly lower than in the two prior years, despite the challenges of the Covid-19 pandemic.

**Table 3: Editorial Statistics for Fast Track Submissions**

*The following figures are based on all Fast Track submissions and resubmissions received in the statistical period. The turnaround time is the number of days elapsed from the manuscript being entered into the database to notification of the editorial decision. The acceptance rate is the number of accepted manuscripts divided by the number of manuscript decisions that could be considered final (i.e., accepted or rejected); it excludes interim decisions (i.e. conditionally accepted or R&R) where the final decision is not yet known.*

Category	2018/19	2018/19	2020/21
New Submissions	80	83	87
Re-submissions	7	9	10
<b>Total Submissions</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>97</b>
Submissions Accepted	2	3	4
Submissions Conditionally Accepted	1	2	2
Submissions Returned for Revision	6	11	11

Submissions Summarily Rejected	14	11	16
Submissions Rejected	64	60	59
<b>Total Decisions</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>92</b>
Submissions Pending at end of period	<b>2</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>7</b>
Acceptance Rate	2.50%	4.05%	5.06%
Mean Turnaround Time (days)	16	18	15
Median Turnaround Time (days)	12	10	9
Distribution of Turnaround Times			
On time (0-14 days)	73 (83.9%)	73 (83.9%)	74 (80.4%)
15-21 days	3	5	8
22-28 days	1	0	1
More than 28 days	10	9	9

### 3.4 Breakdown of Submissions by Research Methodology and Area

**Table 4** shows the breakdown of **research methodology** for all submissions for 2020/21. The **Empirical** research methodology continues to be the most frequently used.

**Table 4: Research Methodology for All Submissions**

*The following figures are based on all unique submissions and resubmissions received in the statistical period; where multiple revisions of a manuscript have been submitted during the statistical period it has only been counted once.*

Research Methodology	2019/20		2020/21	
	Frequency	Frequency (%)	Frequency	Frequency (%)
Empirical	578	85	819	87
Theoretical	77	11	102	11
Experimental	26	4	18	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>681</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>939</b>	<b>100</b>

The breakdown of research areas for all submissions is detailed in **Table 5**. The order of research areas was the same as last year, with **Corporate Finance** topping the list with 36%.

**Table 5: Research Area for All Submissions**

The following figures are based on all unique submissions and resubmissions received in the statistical period. Where multiple revisions of a manuscript have been submitted during the statistical period it has only been counted once.

Research Area	2019/20		2020/21	
	Frequency	Frequency (%)	Frequency	Frequency (%)
Corporate Finance	219	32	339	36
Asset Pricing	177	26	221	24
Banking and Financial Intermediation	132	20	185	20
Behavioral Finance	84	12	109	12
Market Microstructure	40	6	50	5
Mutual Funds	29	4	35	4
<b>Total</b>	<b>746</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>746</b>	<b>100</b>

### 3.5 Breakdown of Accepted Papers by Research Methodology and Area

This section shows the Research Methodology and Research Area for unique papers accepted or conditionally accepted. As shown in **Table 6**, 90% of accepted papers are Empirical and 10% are Theoretical. The most commonly accepted research areas, in order, are Corporate Finance, Asset Pricing, Banking and Financial Intermediation and Behavioral Finance.

**Table 6: Research Methodology and Area for Accepted Papers**

The following figures are based on unique accepted and conditionally accepted papers that were submitted and received a decision in the statistical period.

Research Methodology		
	Frequency	Frequency (%)
Empirical	36	90
Theoretical	4	10
Experimental	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>100</b>
Research Area		
Corporate Finance	15	38
Asset Pricing	11	28
Banking and Financial Intermediation	10	25
Behavioral Finance	2	5
Market Microstructure	1	3
Mutual Funds	1	3

**Total** **40** **100**

---

Table 7 provides similar statistics for the two previous years.

**Table 7: Research Methodology and Area for Published Papers, 2018-19 and 2019-20**

2018/19		2019/20	
<b>Research Methodology</b>		<b>Research Methodology</b>	
Empirical	93%	Empirical	85%
Theoretical	7%	Theoretical	11%
Experimental	0%	Experimental	4%
<b>Research Area</b>		<b>Research Area</b>	
Asset Pricing	25%	Corporate Finance	32%
Banking & Financial Intermediation	29%	Asset Pricing	26%
Corporate Finance	29%	Banking & Financial Intermediation	20%
Behavioral Finance	10%	Behavioral Finance	12%
Market Microstructure	0%	Market Microstructure	6%
Mutual Funds	7%	Mutual Funds	4%

### 3.6 Geographical Breakdown of Accepted Papers

**Table 8: Regional breakdown of accepted papers for the periods 2018/19, 2019-20 and 2020-21**

*The following figures are based on unique papers that were accepted during the statistical period. Region is based on the location of the author's institution at the time of submission. Where a paper has more than one author, authorship of the paper is attributed based on the calculation 1/(number of authors).*

	Asia	Australasia	Europe	N. America	S. America	Totals
<b>2020-21</b>	6.42	2	9.55	21.87	0.17	<b>40</b>
	16%	5%	24%	55%	0%	<b>100%</b>
<b>2019-20</b>	4.42	0.75	11.00	13.08	0.75	<b>30</b>
	15%	3%	37%	44%	3%	<b>100%</b>
<b>2018-19</b>	0.67	0.00	13.50	15.83	0.00	<b>30</b>
	2%	0%	45%	53%	0%	<b>100%</b>



## 4. Best Paper Prizes and Referee Awards

During the EFA Meetings there will be two prizes awarded for outstanding papers published in the Review of Finance during the year. We also award referee awards to recognize outstanding service.

**IQAM INVEST** IQAM Invest continues to sponsor the **IQAM Prize** (known as the Spängler-IQAM Prize prior to 2021) to award the best quality research papers on **Investments** published in the journal. The **Review of Finance** sponsors the **Pagano and Zechner Prize** for the best **Non-investments** paper.

### Pagano and Zechner Prize

#### Winner

**Giannetti, Mariassunta; Liao, Guanmin; You, Jiaying; Yu Xiaoyun**, “The Externalities of Corruption: Evidence from Entrepreneurial Firms in China”

Volume 25, Issue 3, May 2021, Pages 629–667, <https://doi.org/10.1093/rof/rfaa038>

#### Runner up

**Arce, Oscar; Mayordomo, Sergio; Gimeno, Ricardo**, “Making Room for the Needy: The Credit-Reallocation Effects of the ECB’s Corporate QE”

Volume 25, Issue 1, February 2021, Pages 43–84, <https://doi.org/10.1093/rof/rfaa020>

#### Finalists

**Fulghieri, Paolo; Garcia, Diego; Hackbarth, Dirk**, “Asymmetric Information and the Pecking (Dis)Order”

Volume 24, Issue 5, September 2020, Pages 961–996, <https://doi.org/10.1093/rof/rfaa005>

**Gafni, Hadar; Marom, Dan; Robb, Alicia; Sade, Orly**, “Gender Dynamics in Crowdfunding (Kickstarter): Evidence on Entrepreneurs, Backers, and Taste-Based Discrimination”

Volume 25, Issue 2, March 2021, Pages 235–274, <https://doi.org/10.1093/rof/rfaa041>

**Xiao, Steven C; Dass, Nishant; Park, Haemin D; Nanda, Vikram**, “Intellectual Property Protection and Financial Markets: Patenting versus Secrecy”

Volume 25, Issue 3, May 2021, Pages 669–711, <https://doi.org/10.1093/rof/rfaa033>

### IQAM Prize

#### Winner

**Boehmer, Ekkehart; Jones, Charles M.; Wu, Juan (Julie); Zhang, Xiaoyan**, “What Do Short Sellers Know?”

Volume 24, Issue 6, November 2020, Pages 1203–1235, <https://doi.org/10.1093/rof/rfaa008>

#### Runner up

**Charoenwong, Ben; Morck, Randall; Wiwattanakantang, Yupana**, “Bank of Japan Equity Purchases: The (Non-)Effects of Extreme Quantitative Easing”  
Volume 25, Issue 3, May 2021, Pages 713–743, <https://doi.org/10.1093/rof/rfaa029>

## Finalists

Hou, Kewei; Mo, Haitao; Xue, Chen; Zhang, Lu, “An Augmented q-Factor Model with Expected Growth”  
Volume 25, Issue 1, February 2021, Pages 1–41, <https://doi.org/10.1093/rof/rfaa004>

Panayotov, George, “Global Risks in the Currency Market”  
Volume 24, Issue 6, November 2020, Pages 1237–1270,  
<https://doi.org/10.1093/rof/rfaa010>

Efing, Matthias, “Reaching for Yield in the ABS Market: Evidence from German Bank Investments”  
Volume 24, Issue 4, July 2020, Pages 929–959, <https://doi.org/10.1093/rof/rfz013>

## Distinguished Referee Awards

Jaewon Choi  
Espen Eckbo  
Ansgar Walther

## 5. Bans

Since failing to cite relevant work is seriously damaging to the scientific research process, we introduced a new policy (see <http://revfin.org/editorial-policy/>) that imposes a 2-year ban on offending authors in clear-cut cases. Three authors have been banned since the start of 2020. We have banned another seven authors for payment-related issues (e.g. falsely claiming to have a conditional acceptance in order to bypass the requirement for payment).

## 6. Published Articles

Review of Finance articles published between 1 July 2020 and 30 June 2021.

### Volume 24, Issue 4 July 2020

[Corporate Governance in China: A Survey](#)  
Fuxiu Jiang, Kenneth A Kim

[Internal Capital Markets in Times of Crisis: The Benefit of Group Affiliation](#)  
Raffaele Santioni, Fabio Schiantarelli, Philip E Strahan

[Margin Trading and Comovement During Crises](#)  
Bige Kahraman, Heather Tookes

[How Do Internal Capital Markets Work? Evidence from the Great Recession](#)

David Buchuk, Borja Larrain, Mounu Prem, Francisco Urzúa Infante

[Do Corporate Governance Ratings Change Investor Expectations? Evidence from Announcements by Institutional Shareholder Services](#)

Paul M Guest, Marco Nerino

[Reaching for Yield in the ABS Market: Evidence from German Bank Investments](#)

Matthias Efung

## **Volume 24, Issue 5** September 2020

[Asymmetric Information and the Pecking \(Dis\)Order](#)

Paolo Fulghieri, Diego García, Dirk Hackbarth

[Local Bankruptcy and Geographic Contagion in the Bank Loan Market](#)

Jawad M Addoum, Alok Kumar, Nhan Le, Alexandra Niessen-Ruenzi

[Signal on the Margin: Behavior of Levered Investors and Future Economic Conditions](#)

Prachi Deuskar, Nitin Kumar, Jeramia Allan Poland

[Regulatory Certification, Risk Factor Disclosure, and Investor Behavior](#)

Ruben Cox, Peter de Goeij

[Earnings Belief Risk and the Cross-Section of Stock Returns](#)

Rajna Gibson Brandon, Songtao Wang

## **Volume 24, Issue 6** November 2020

[Does the Market Correctly Value Investment Options?](#)

Evgeny Lyandres, Egor Matveyev, Alexei Zhdanov

[What Do Short Sellers Know?](#)

Ekkehart Boehmer, Charles M Jones, Juan (Julie) Wu, Xiaoyan Zhang

[Global Risks in the Currency Market](#)

George Panayotov

[The Duration Puzzle in Life-Cycle Investment](#)

Servaas van Bilsen, Ilja A Boelaars, A. Lans Bovenberg

[Forecasting the Equity Premium: Mind the News!](#)

Philipp Adämmer, Rainer A Schüssler

## **Volume 25, Issue 1** February 2021

[An Augmented q-Factor Model with Expected Growth](#)

Kewei Hou, Haitao Mo, Chen Xue, Lu Zhang

[Making Room for the Needy: The Credit-Reallocation Effects of the ECB's Corporate QE](#)

Oscar Arce, Sergio Mayordomo, Ricardo Gimeno

[Sentiment in Central Banks' Financial Stability Reports](#)

Ricardo Correa, Keshav Garud, Juan M Londono, Nathan Mislant

[Credit Default Swaps and Bank Regulatory Capital](#)

Chenyu Shan, Dragon Yongjun Tang, Hong Yan, Xing (Alex) Zhou

[Default Option Exercise over the Financial Crisis and beyond](#)

Xudong An, Yongheng Deng, Stuart A Gabriel

[The Effect of Regulatory Constraints on Fund Performance: New Evidence from UCITS Hedge Funds](#)

Juha Joenväärä, Robert Kosowski

**Volume 25, Issue 2** March 2021

[Gender Dynamics in Crowdfunding \(Kickstarter\): Evidence on Entrepreneurs, Backers, and Taste-Based Discrimination](#)

Hadar Gafni, Dan Marom, Alicia Robb, Orly Sade

[Tradeoff Theory and Leverage Dynamics of High-Frequency Debt Issuers](#)

B Espen Eckbo, Michael Kisser

[First Impression Bias: Evidence from Analyst Forecasts](#)

David Hirshleifer, Ben Lourie, Thomas G Ruchti, Phong Truong

[The Persistence of Fee Dispersion among Mutual Funds](#)

Michael J Cooper, Michael Halling, Wenhao Yang

[Improving Access to Banking: Evidence from Kenya](#)

Franklin Allen, Elena Carletti, Robert Cull, Jun QJ Qian, Lemma Senbet ...

[Value Return Predictability across Asset Classes and Commonalities in Risk Premia](#)

Fahiz Baba Yara, Martijn Boons, Andrea Tamoni

[What Constrains Liquidity Provision? Evidence from Institutional Trades](#)

Efe Çötelioglu, Francesco Franzoni, Alberto Plazzi

[What Drives Global Lending Syndication? Effects of Cross-Country Capital Regulation Gaps](#)

Janet Gao, Yeejin Jang

[Fintech for the Poor: Financial Intermediation Without Discrimination](#)

Prasanna Tantri

**Volume 25, Issue 3** May 2021

[Learning from Feedback: Evidence from New Ventures](#)

Sabrina T Howell

[The Externalities of Corruption: Evidence from Entrepreneurial Firms in China](#)

Mariassunta Giannetti, Guanmin Liao, Jiaying You, Xiaoyun Yu

[Intellectual Property Protection and Financial Markets: Patenting versus Secrecy](#)

Nishant Dass, Vikram Nanda, Haemin Dennis Park, Steven Chong Xiao

[Bank of Japan Equity Purchases: The \(Non-\)Effects of Extreme Quantitative Easing](#)

Ben Charoenwong, Randall Morck, Yupana Wiwattanakantang

[More is Less: Publicizing Information and Market Feedback](#)

Andrew Bird, Stephen A Karolyi, Thomas G Ruchti, Phong Truong

[Equilibrium Asset Pricing in Directed Networks](#)

Nicole Branger, Patrick Konermann, Christoph Meinerding, Christian Schlag

[Managing Liquidity in Production Networks: The Role of Central Firms](#)

Janet Gao

[Is Currency Risk Priced in Global Equity Markets?](#)

George Andrew Karolyi, Ying Wu

[Spillovers in Prices: The Curious Case of Haunted Houses](#)

Utpal Bhattacharya, Daisy Huang, Kasper Meisner Nielsen