

MAX MILLER
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Education

PRESENT UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA, WHARTON SCHOOL OF BUSINESS
PhD in Finance, August 2017 – May 2023 (Expected)

2013 EMORY UNIVERSITY, GOIZUETA SCHOOL OF BUSINESS
Bachelor of Business Administration, Finance

Fields of Interest

- Asset Pricing
- Household Finance
- Political Economy

Publications

1. **Relaxing household liquidity constraints through social security**
with Sylvain Catherine and Natasha Sarin
Journal of Public Economics (2020)
Press: MarketWatch, MarketWatch, MarketWatch
2. **Mutual Funds: Skill and Performance**
with Jonathan Berk and Jules van Binsbergen
Journal of Portfolio Management (2020)

Working Papers

1. **Democratization, Inequality, and Risk Premia**
MFA Best Doctoral Paper Award (2021)
WEA PhD Candidate Award For Outstanding Research (2021)
EFA Engelbert Dockner Memorial Prize for the Best Paper by Young Researchers, Runner-Up (2021)
FMA Best Paper in Investments (2021)

Risk premia are significantly elevated during periods of democratization in a cross-country panel of equity data covering 85 countries over 200 years, despite little evidence of a negative effect on either realized or expected GDP and dividends. This result is explained in an asset pricing model in which wealthy asset market participants face higher taxes when democratizations succeed. Finally, using a shift in Catholic church doctrine in support of democracy, majority Catholic autocracies display

significantly higher average excess returns relative to other countries in a difference-in-differences framework. These results shed light on how redistribution risk shapes asset prices.

Presented at: Econometric Society European Winter Meeting, Econometric Society World Congress, European Finance Association (EFA; Poster Session), MFA, MFA Doctoral Symposium, Trans-Atlantic Doctoral Conference, WFA, World Finance Conference, Young Economist Symposium, EFA, NFA, FMA, UBC Winter Finance Conference (Scheduled)

2. **Social Security and Trends in Wealth Inequality**

with Sylvain Catherine and Natasha Sarin

Red Rock Finance Conference Best Paper Award (2020)

SFS Cavalcade Best Paper in Asset Pricing (2021)

Recent influential work finds large increases in inequality in the U.S. based on measures of wealth concentration that notably exclude the value of social insurance programs. This paper revisits this conclusion by incorporating Social Security retirement benefits into measures of wealth inequality. We find that top wealth shares have not increased in the last three decades when Social Security is properly accounted for. This finding is robust to assumptions about how taxes and benefits may change in response to system financing concerns. When discounted at the risk-free rate, real Social Security wealth increased substantially from \$4.9 trillion in 1989 to \$52.6 trillion in 2019. When we adjust the discount rate for long-run macroeconomic risk, this increase remains sizable, growing from over \$4.0 trillion in 1989 to \$41.2 trillion in 2019. Consequently, by 2019, Social Security wealth represents 59% of the wealth of the bottom 90% of the wealth distribution.

Presented at: Chicago Annual Household Finance Conference*, EconTwitter Conference*, NBER SI CRIW*, Red Rock Finance Conference*, CEPR European Conference on Household Finance*, Northern Finance Association*, NBER Public Finance*, ASU Sonoran*, SFS Cavalcade, WFA*, NBER SI Inequality and the Macroeconomy*

*Denotes presentation by co-author

Press: Marginal Revolution, Pro-Market, The Economist

3. **Sovereign default and the decline in interest rates**

with James Paron and Jessica Wachter

Sovereign debt yields have declined dramatically over the last half-century. Standard explanations for this decline, including aging populations and increases in asset demand from abroad, encounter difficulties when confronted with the full range of evidence across asset classes. We propose instead that the decline in inflation and default risk caused falling interest rates, a phenomenon that is not unique to our century. We show that a model with investment, inventory storage, and sovereign default captures the decline in interest rates, the stability of equity valuation ratios, and the recent reduction in investment and output growth corresponding to the zero lower bound.

Presented at: NBER SI Capital Markets, SF Fed Conference on Macro and Monetary Policy*, WFA*, NBER SI Asset Pricing

*Denotes presentation by co-author

Works in Progress

1. **Foreign Influence in U.S. Politics**

with Marco Grotteria and Lakshmi Naaraayanan

We construct a comprehensive dataset of date-stamped meetings between foreign entities and individual U.S. legislators from reports mandated by the Foreign Agents Registration Act (FARA). Our dataset spans 2000 to 2018, covering 121 countries and 1076 legislators. We establish three facts using this new dataset: (1) Foreign entities meet with top congresspeople around elections, (2) They lobby most intensely for trade and economy, (3) Lawmaker's effectiveness and past connections are positively related to meetings while ideology is not. Using sudden deaths of legislators as a shock to connection, we establish that meetings positively affect resource allocation for foreign entities. Overall, we provide the first large-sample evidence of foreign influence in U.S. politics and new observations to guide theoretical and empirical researchers working at the intersection of finance and political economics.

Technical Reports

1. International Portfolio Investment Holdings of Long-term Securities in the Enhanced Financial Accounts

with Elizabeth Holmquist and Youngsuk Yook

FEDS Note (2016)

Conference Presentations

2022	UBC Winter Finance Conference (Scheduled)
2021	NBER SI Asset Pricing, WFA, MFA, MFA Doctoral Symposium, SFS Cavalcade, Trans-Atlantic Doctoral Conference, World Finance Conference, Young Economist Symposium, EFA, NFA, FMA
2020	NBER SI Capital Markets, Econometric Society World Congress, EFA (Poster Session)
2019	Econometric Society European Winter Meeting

Invited Discussions

2021	Trans-Atlantic Doctoral Conference, Young Economist Symposium, World Finance Conference
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Honors and Awards

2021	FMA Best Paper in Investments
2021	Jacobs Levy Center Dissertation Fellow
2021	EFA Engelbert Dockner Memorial Prize for the Best Paper by Young Researchers, Runner-Up
2021	WFA PhD Candidate Award For Outstanding Research
2021	SFS Cavalcade Best Paper in Asset Pricing
2021	MFA Best Doctoral Paper Award
2020	Red Rock Finance Conference Best Paper Award

2019 Rodney White Center Grant
2019 Jacobs Levy Center Grant

Teaching Experience

Teaching Assistant:

2020 PhD Asset Pricing (Prof. Nikolai Roussanov)
2019 PhD Asset Pricing (Prof. Nikolai Roussanov), Investment Management (Prof. Robert Stambaugh), Investment Management (Prof. Donald Keim), Financial Technology (Prof. Shimon Kogan)
2018 Investment Management (Prof. Donald Keim), Policy Decisions by Central Banks (Prof. Zvi Eckstein)

Service

Reviewer Reviewer for the *Journal of Finance*, *American Economic Review: Insights*, *Review of Finance*
Conferences Conference committee for

Coding and Software Skills

Proficient Python, R, Stata, Matlab, \LaTeX , LyX, Microsoft Excel
Basic SAS, SQL

Employment/Research Experience

2021-22 Economist, Securities and Exchange Commission, Office of the Chief Economist
2019 Research Assistant to Jules van Binsbergen
2019 Research Assistant to Luke Taylor
2015-17 Research Assistant, Federal Reserve Board of Governors, Flow of Funds
2014-15 Research Assistant to Professor Francis X. Diebold; Expatriate of the Friday Morning Econometrics Group
2013-14 Operations Analyst, YP

Other Education

2015-16 Non-Degree Student, George Washington University
2014-15 Post-Baccalaureate Certificate in Mathematical Economics, University of Pennsylvania

Interests

Basketball	Tuck Inter-MBA Tournament Champion (2018, 2019 — Runner-Up), Harvard Inter-MBA Tournament (2019 — Runner-Up), UPenn Inter-Graduate School Champions (2018, 2019), Graduate Division Intramural Champion (2018, 2019 — Runner-Up)
Football	Graduate Division Intramural Flag Football Champion (2015)
Fantasy	Fantasy Football League Champion (2006, 2014, 2019) — League Champion Trophy named “The Maxwell Jacobson Miller Achievement Award for Fantasy Football Excellence”
Chess	Chess.com highest ratings — Blitz: 2012 (99th percentile), Bullet: 1967 (99th percentile)
Music	Guitar, Ukulele, and Piano