

Yini Liu

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Academic Appointments

University of Western Ontario, Canada 2020 - Present
Assistant Professor (tenure-track)

Education

University of Texas at San Antonio, United States 2015 – 2020
Ph.D. in Finance
Fudan University, Shanghai, China 2013-2015
M.A. in Finance (Fund Management Track)
University of Groningen, Netherlands 2014
Exchange Student
Fudan University, Shanghai, China 2009-2013
B.A. in Economics
University of Manchester, United Kingdom 2012
Exchange Student

Honors and Awards

UTSA Keith Fairchild Teaching Award 2019
ASSA American Finance Association 2019 Meeting Doctoral Student Travel Grant
UTSA College of Business 5th Year funding received 2019-2020
UTSA College of Business PhD Excellence Award 2017&2018&2019
UTSA Graduate Student Professional Development Award 2017&2018&2019
UTSA Doctoral Tuition Fellowship 2015-2019
Southwestern Finance Association 2019 Meeting Doctoral Student Stipend
Fudan U Graduate Student Scholarship 1st Award 2014&2015
Fudan U Xiyuan Research Award, 2013
Fudan U Undergraduate Student First Class Scholarship 2011&2012

Journal Publications

“How Reverse Merger Firms Raise Capital in PIPEs: Search Costs and Placement Agent Reputation”, with Onur Bayar and Juan Mao, *Review of Quantitative Finance and Accounting*, May 2020 <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s11156-020-00889-7>

“On Chinese Firms Preference for Fund Collection by Initial Public Offering from the Perspective of Reputation Premium, Market Power and Cash Dividends”, with Suhua Tian, *Shanghai Journal of Economics (CSSCI) 2014 (1): 50-62*

Research Interests

Private Equity Offerings
SEO and IPO
Law and Economics

Financial Intermediation
Entrepreneurial Finance
Labor Economics

Working Papers

- **Litigation Risk and Private Investments in Public Equity** (Job Market Paper)
Selected by the 2019 FMA Doctoral Student Consortium and special Ph.D. job market presentation session, admitted by Eastern Finance Association 2020)

We study the effect of litigation risk on the characteristics of Private Investments in Public Equity (PIPE) deals. PIPE firms face costly securities class action lawsuits as these firms are not exempt from antifraud, civil liability, or other provisions of federal securities laws. This is the first paper to analyze the way litigation risk is associated with pricing, contractual terms, security types, performance in privately-negotiated equity financing transactions. First, using data on securities class action lawsuits initiated before the PIPE transactions, we find that litigation risk affects firms' security choice in PIPEs subsequent to prior litigation. Consistent with a greater potential disagreement between firm insiders and outside investors, previously litigated public firms are less likely to issue common stock and more likely to issue convertible securities (debt or preferred stock) in PIPEs. Second, previously litigated firms offer more investor control rights and investor protection terms in their PIPE contracts. Third, consistent with the hypothesis that previously litigated public firms are more averse to diluting the ownership stakes of their current shareholders, we find that PIPE offer price discounts are negatively associated with firms' pre-PIPE litigation risk. Furthermore, we find that firms offering larger price discounts in their PIPEs, are more likely to incur future litigation and experience lower long-term abnormal stock returns post-issue.

- **Is Short Selling Informative about Litigation Risk? Evidence from Private Investments in Public Equity**

We examine the impact of litigation risk on short selling activity around PIPE transactions. We find that PIPE issuers that incurred securities class action lawsuits prior to the PIPE offering are shorted more heavily around the PIPE issuance date. Heterogeneity in the level of issuers' litigation risk such as the case status at the time of security issue and the timing of the private placement after the litigation event affects the extent of short selling activity surrounding PIPEs. In addition, the effects of litigation risk on short selling are more pronounced in PIPEs where lead investors are hedge funds. Our results imply that outside investors incorporate value-relevant information about issuing firms' litigation risk through their short selling activity around PIPE offerings.

Work in Progress

- **The Impact of Right-to-Work Law on Firms' Employment and Financial Performance: Evidence from a Natural Experiment** (with John K. Wald, Census Bureau Center of Economic Studies project #1960)
- **Public Firms Issuing Private Equity to Finance Innovation: Evidence from Private Investments in Public Equity**

Conference Presentations (* presenter)

- Financial Management Association Annual Meeting (New Orleans, LA) October 2019
(Dissertation selected by the 2019 FMA Doctoral Student Consortium)
Onur Bayar, **Yini Liu***, and Juan Mao, "Litigation Risk and Private Investments in Public Equity"
- ASSA American Finance Association PhD Student Poster Session (Atlanta, GA) Jan 2019
Onur Bayar, **Yini Liu***, and Juan Mao, "How Reverse Merger Firms Raise Capital in PIPEs: Search Costs and Placement Agent Reputation"
- Financial Management Association Annual Meeting (San Diego, CA) October 2018
Onur Bayar, **Yini Liu***, and Juan Mao, "How Reverse Merger Firms Raise Capital in PIPEs: Search Costs and Placement Agent Reputation"
- Financial Management Association Asia/Pacific Conference (Hong Kong) May 2018
Onur Bayar, **Yini Liu***, and Juan Mao, "How Reverse Merger Firms Raise Capital in PIPEs: Search Costs and Placement Agent Reputation"
- Midwest Finance Association Annual Meeting (San Antonio, TX) March 2018
Onur Bayar, **Yini Liu***, and Juan Mao, "How Reverse Merger Firms Raise Capital in PIPEs: Search Costs and Placement Agent Reputation"
- Southwestern Finance Association Annual meeting (Houston, TX) March 2019
Onur Bayar, **Yini Liu***, and Juan Mao, "How Reverse Merger Firms Raise Capital in PIPEs: Search Costs and Placement Agent Reputation"

Conference Discussions

- Financial Management Association Annual Meeting (San Diego, CA) October 2018
- Financial Management Association Asia/Pacific Conference (Hong Kong) May 2018
- Southwestern Finance Association Annual meeting (Houston, TX) March 2019

Teaching Interests

Corporate Finance, Entrepreneurial Finance, International Finance, or Capital Markets and Investments classes at undergraduate or graduate level

Teaching Experience

I have taught the following courses as an independent instructor:

2019 Spring FIN3003 Survey of Finance

- Teaching evaluation: 4.41/5.00 (College of Business average: 4.18/5.00)
- Class size: 66; Number of Respondents: 58

2018 Summer FIN3013 Principles of Business Finance

- Teaching evaluation: 4.45/5.00 (College of Business average: 4.12/5.00)
- Class size: 37; Number of Respondents: 33

2017 Fall FIN3003 Survey of Finance

- Teaching evaluation: 4.25/5.00 (College of Business average: 4.04/5.00)
- Class size: 40; Number of Respondents: 32

Academic Work Experience

Coauthored Book: “Equity Markets, Valuation, and Analysis”

- Chapter 14: “Private Company Valuation”

Referee for: *Journal of Banking and Finance*, *British Journal of Management*, *International Journal of Accounting, Auditing and Performance Evaluation*

Other Teaching Experience

Research Assistant: Department of Finance, 2015-2019

Teaching Assistant:

- 2019 Fall, 2018 Spring and Fall: Computer Modeling of Financial Applications: Grader
- 2017 Summer: Principles of Business Finance: Lab Instructor
- 2016 Spring: Cases and Problems in Finance: Grader

Industry Experience

Fosun International, January-June, 2015, Shanghai, China

- 6-month internship as investment analyst in PE/VC projects in public facilities, transportation and logistics, online retailing industries
- Offer generated

BNY Mellon Western Fund Management, June-September, 2014, Shanghai, China

- 3-month internship as product management assistant
- Comply with mutual fund industry regulation and prepare legal documents for 3 new mutual fund products

Bank of Communications, January-June, 2011, Shanghai, China

- 6-month internship as assistant in the department of personal wealth management
- Compile 200+ client files and verify quarterly financial statements

Professional Affiliations

Member of American Finance Association (AFA), Financial Management Association (FMA), Midwest Finance Association (MFA), Southwestern Finance Association (SWFA)

Skills

Software and database: Stata; SAS; R; Python; SPSS; Microsoft; Bloomberg; Capital IQ
Language: English (proficient); Mandarin (native)
