

MENG GAO

Department of Finance
School of Business
University of Connecticut

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RESEARCH INTERESTS

Informed trading, information production, political economy, and executive compensation.

ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

Assistant Professor of Finance, University of Connecticut, 2020–Present

EDUCATION

Ph.D., Finance, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, IL

Ph.D., Physics, Boston College, Chestnut Hill, MA

B.S., Physics, Tsinghua University, Beijing, China

PUBLICATIONS

- **Get the Money Somehow: The Effect of Missing Performance Goals on Insider Trading**, *Journal of Financial and Quantitative Analysis*, forthcoming,
- **Informed Voting**, 2025, with Jiekun Huang, *Review of Financial Studies* 38, 1167–1210.
- **Informing the Market: The Effect of Modern Information Technologies on Information Production**, 2020, with Jiekun Huang, *Review of Financial Studies* 33, 1367–1411 [Editor's Choice, lead article].
- **Capitalizing on Capitol Hill: Informed Trading by Hedge Fund Managers**, 2016, with Jiekun Huang, *Journal of Financial Economics* 121, 521–545.

WORKING PAPERS

- **Carbon, Climate, and Congress: How Campaign Contributions Shape Climate Roll Call Votes**, with Jiekun Huang, working paper, 2026. [SSRN Link](#)
 - R&R at *Review of Finance*
 - Presented at the 2023 MFA, 2024 AEA, 2024 CICF, 2024 EFA.

- **Woke or Broke? The Impact of Corporate Activism on Product Sales**, with Xiang Zheng, working paper, 2026. [SSRN Link](#)
- **Strategic Voting and Informational Rents: Evidence from Mutual Funds' Trades and Votes**, with Jiekun Huang and Shaoting Pi, working paper, 2026. [SSRN Link](#)
- **Stigmatized Borrowers: Identity-Based Markups in Mortgage Pricing**, with Jiekun Huang, working paper, 2026. [SSRN Link](#)

HONORS AND AWARDS

2025 CERFAS Best Paper Award, Cambridge Judge Business School

2025 Best Paper Award in Corporate Finance, Semifinalist, FMA Annual Meeting

2019 AFA Student Travel Grant

2017-2018 Corzine Fellowship

2017-2018 Paul M. Van Arsdell Sr. Teaching Award

Appeared on the *List of Teachers Ranked as Excellent by Their Students*, University of Illinois, Summer 2017

CONFERENCE AND SEMINAR PRESENTATIONS

2026 China International Conference in Finance (CICF)*

2025 Financial Management Association (FMA) Annual Meeting

2024 AFA AFFECT Mentoring Workshop; American Economic Association (AEA) Annual Meeting*; China International Conference in Finance (CICF); European Finance Association (EFA)

2023 Midwest Finance Association (MFA) Annual Meeting; UConn Business School-Wide Research Seminar; UConn Finance Seminar

2020 Brandeis University; Michigan State University; University of Florida; University of Connecticut; Tulane University; Chinese University of Hong Kong

2019 University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign; American Finance Association (AFA) Annual Meeting*

2018 Financial Intermediation Research Society (FIRS) Annual Conference

2017 China International Conference in Finance (CICF); University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

* INDICATES PRESENTED BY COAUTHOR

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- Finance Department, University of Connecticut
 - Instructor, FNCE 4305 Global Financial Management, 2020-2026

- Instructor, FNCE 3302 Investments and Security Analysis, 2020-2026
- Instructor, FNCE 3101 Financial Management, 2023 (Honors), 2025
- Finance Department, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
 - Instructor, FIN 221 Corporate Finance, Summer 2017
 - Teaching Assistant, FIN 527 Mergers and Acquisitions Topics (MSF), Fall 2019
 - Teaching Assistant and Discussion Session Instructor, FIN 221 Corporate Finance, Spring 2017

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Referee:

Journal of Finance, Review of Financial Studies, Journal of Financial and Quantitative Analysis, Management Science, Review of Finance, Financial Management, Journal of Corporate Finance, Journal of Banking and Finance, Journal of Financial Research, International Review of Finance, Journal of Empirical Finance

Session organizer/chair:

Financial Management Association (FMA) Annual Meeting, 2025

Midwest Finance Association Annual Meeting, 2023

University of Connecticut Finance Conference, 2023-2026

Discussant:

China International Conference in Finance (CICF), 2024

Western Finance Association (WFA), 2023

Midwest Finance Association (MFA) Annual Meeting, 2022

Program committee:

Financial Management Association (FMA) Annual Meeting, 2025

Midwest Finance Association (MFA) Annual Meeting, 2021

University of Connecticut Finance Conference, 2021-2026

Dissertation committee member, Ying Xing, 2026

Undergraduate faculty advisor, 2021–present

MEDIA COVERAGE

- “Strategic voting and informational rents: evidence from mutual fund trades and votes,” *University of Cambridge CERF Blog*, 10/2025
- “Does Missing Performance Goals Prompt More Opportunistic Insider Trading?” *Columbia Law School Blue Sky Blog on corporate governance*, 12/20/2019.
- “The SEC Is Asking About ESG,” *Bloomberg Opinion*, 12/17/2019.
- “Capitalizing on Capitol Hill: Informed trading by hedge fund managers,” *Harvard Law School Forum on Corporate Governance and Financial Regulation*, 8/26/2016.

- “Thanks for the stock tip, Mr. Senator,” *Bloomberg News*, 3/20/2015.

INDUSTRY EXPERIENCE

- Market Risk Analytics, DBS Bank, Singapore
 - Associate Risk Analyst, 2011–2013
- Risk Management Institute, National University of Singapore, Singapore
 - Research Fellow, 2009–2011
- Advanced Research Center, State Street Global Advisors, Boston, MA
 - Internship, 2007–2008

PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS

Passed All 3 Levels of CFA Exams, CFA Institute

Passed FRM Level 1, GARP