

“Eden” Quxian Zhang

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Education:

Rotterdam School of Management, Erasmus University, Rotterdam, The Netherlands
Ph.D. in Finance (expected), 2017
Supervisor: Professor Peter Roosenboom
Visiting Ph.D. Student at NYU Stern School of Business, 2015

University of Texas at Dallas
Master of Science in Finance, 2012
Graduation with Distinction
High Pass in Preliminary Exam of Ph.D. Program

Tsinghua University, Beijing, China
Bachelor of Economics in Finance, 2008
Bachelor Thesis: 92/100

References:

Professor Peter Roosenboom
Rotterdam School of Management
Erasmus University
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Professor David Yermack
Leonard N. Stern School of Business
New York University
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Professor Wolf Wagner
Rotterdam School of Management
Erasmus University & CEPR
wagner@rsm.nl

Research Interests:

Corporate Finance, Political Economy of Finance, Mergers and Acquisitions.

Working Papers:

“Why Do Distressed Firms Acquire?” (Job Market Paper)

Abstract: This study documents a recent trend of diversifying acquisitions made by financially distressed firms and investigates the motivation for such acquisitions. Firms in financial distress engage in M&As as much as non-distressed firms between 2010 and 2014. Exploiting an exogenous shock in bankruptcy risk for financially distressed firms, I find that distressed firms reduce acquisition activities upon a reduction of bankruptcy probabilities. Specifically, distressed firms become more focused by cutting acquisition spending by 53% and by doubling divestitures. The results support the diversifying motivation of acquisitions by distressed firms, rather than the growth opportunity motivation that firms are capturing external growth opportunities. These findings indicate another distortion of financial distress in investment that when firms are under the pressure to meet debt obligations. Distress creates an incentive for firms to diversify and drives the investment style to external expansions.

“Lobbying in Mergers and Acquisitions” (joint with Peter Roosenboom and Jana Fidrmuc)

Abstract: We study the effect of lobbying in mergers and acquisitions. Government approval poses a major source of risk to takeover completion. We find that receiving an adverse antitrust review opinion leads to a decline of -2.84 percentage points in combined bidder and target firm value, which is more than half of the synergy perceived at the merger announcement. We also show that corporate lobbying intensity significantly correlates with deal outcomes. Specifically, higher lobbying spending by the bidder facilitates deal completion through a lower likelihood of adverse opinions from the antitrust agencies and reduced time in completing the deal. We also show that such effects being well received by investors. One standard deviation increase in lobby spending by the bidders results in 1.8 percentage points increase in the target announcement abnormal returns. However, lobbying spending is only positively correlated with merger announcement returns for non-entrenched bidders.

Work-in-Progress:

“The Politics of Failed Bank Resolutions” (joint with Deniz Igan, Thomas Lambert, and Wolf Wagner)

We study the role of political connection in failed-bank auctions conducted by the FDIC during the recent financial crisis. Politically connected banks are more likely to win the auctions.

“CEO Personal Wealth and Corporate Investment Decisions: Evidence from A Natural Experiment”

Using a novel natural experiment of legal changes against individual oversea tax evasion, I study corporate investment decisions when CEOs suffer losses on personal wealth due to US agreements with tax haven countries.

Presentations:

(*: *scheduled*)

Conferences:

Ph.D. Forum, Australasian Finance and Banking Conference (2016)*
Job Market Session, EUROFIDAI Paris December Finance Meeting (2016)*
Corporate Finance Day (Antwerp, 2016)

Seminars:

University of Lille 2 (2016)*
Corporate Governance Luncheon, New York University (2015)
Australian National University (2014)
Erasmus Ph.D. Seminars (2014-2016)

Teaching Experience:

Erasmus University:

Mergers & Acquisitions (Bachelor Level, 2014)
Entrepreneurial Finance and Private Equity (Teaching Assistant, Master Level, 2013-2016)
Master Thesis Supervision (2013-2015)
Bachelor Thesis Supervision (2013-2014)

University of Texas at Dallas (Teaching Assistant):

Investment Management (Master Level, 2010-2011)
Financial Management & Institutions (Master Level, 2012)

Honors & Grants:

Australasian Finance & Banking Conference Ph.D. Forum Travel Grant (2016)
National Natural Science Foundation of China Grant (Co-investigator, 2016)
RSM Trustfund Research Visit Grant (2015)
AFA Student Travel Grant (2015)
Phi Kappa Phi (2011-2012)
Graduate Student Scholarships (2010-2012)
Chiang-Chen Scholarship (2008-2009)
Kuang-Wah Scholarship (2005-2006)

Skills:

Programming: SAS, Stata, Python, Perl
Languages: Chinese (native), English (fluent), Dutch (basic), Japanese (basic)