

JAMES A. JOHNSON

Terry School of Business, University of Georgia • 355 Amos Hall
Athens, GA 30602 • (214) 335-8359 • james@shdsolutions.com

EDUCATION

Terry School of Business, University of Georgia
Ph.D., Finance

Athens, GA

Cox School of Business, Southern Methodist University
Master of Business Administration

Dallas, TX

Baylor University
Bachelor of Science, Psychology

Waco, TX

PUBLICATIONS

Jumps in Stock Prices: New Insights from Old Data (with Marcelo C. Medeiros and Bradley S. Paye),
September 2022, *Journal of Financial Markets*.

CONFERENCES: 2017 Third International Workshop in Financial Econometrics, Arraial d' Ajuda, Brazil; 45th
Annual EFA meeting, Warsaw, Poland; 2019 European FMA meeting, Glasgow, Scotland

ABSTRACT: We characterize jump dynamics in stock market returns using a novel series of intraday prices covering over 80 years. Jump activity varies over time in an economically significant manner. Jump rates are historically greatest during the 1940s and 50s. We document important shifts in the nature of news driving stock market jumps. Unscheduled news, often related to major wars, drives jump activity in early decades, whereas scheduled macroeconomic and monetary news drives jumps at an increasing rate during recent decades. Jump variation measures forecast excess stock market returns in a manner consistent with theoretical models featuring time-varying jump risk.

WORKING PAPERS

Monetary Policy and Asset Prices: A Jumps-Based Approach to Identifying Monetary Surprises (with Bradley S. Paye), 2018. Current status: to be submitted to *Journal of Empirical Finance*.

CONFERENCES: 2016 SIWFE, Salvador, Brazil; 2016 IDC Herzliya 7th Summer Finance Conference, Herzliya, Israel; Financial Management Association 2016 Annual Meeting (*semifinalist for Best Paper in the Financial Markets category*); 2017 Midwest Finance Association Annual Conference

ABSTRACT: A large literature measures the effects monetary policy shocks on asset prices. We promote a data-driven approach to designating monetary surprise events via econometric tests for asset price jumps. Applying these tests, we identify the specific Fed communications that generate monetary surprises. Results highlight the important role of Fed communications beyond FOMC statement releases, especially FOMC minutes releases. We characterize the pattern of asset reactions to monetary surprises using 'jump regressions.' Treasury yield reactions are only weakly related to those of assets with nominally risky cash flows.

Rundown in Runup: The Reduction in Price Runup Preceding Merger Announcements, 2016.

CONFERENCES: 2016 Financial Management Association Annual Meeting

ABSTRACT: I examine the price runup in publicly traded merger targets prior to the announcement of mergers in the period from 1980-2014. The average runup falls from 10.6% in the 1980-1984 period to 3.9% in the 2010-2014 period. The time series of average runup returns is relatively volatile. I detect a statistically significant downward break in the level of average runup returns around 2004. I then test whether the downward shift in runup returns is attributable to changes in firm and transaction characteristics. I show that runup returns negatively relate to target firm liquidity, even after controlling for previously studied firm and transaction characteristics. Although stock liquidity improves on average in the early 2000s, this effect does not fully explain the observed decrease in runup. I discuss several alternative hypotheses for the unexplained decrease.

WORKS IN PROGRESS

Merger Noise and Risk Transmission (with Lee J. Cohen), 2019.

Distressed Firms as M&A Targets (with Mary Elizabeth Thompson), 2017.

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Mergers and acquisitions; market microstructure; central banking

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Senior Lecturer, University of Georgia

Fall 2021 – Present

Lecturer, University of Georgia

Fall 2015 – Spring 2021

Average evaluation score: 4.5/5; 2,191 students in 77 sections

Applied Corporate Finance (FINA 4210), Corporate Finance (FINA 4200), Empirical Methods in Finance (FINA 7990), Financial Modeling (FINA 7920E)

Graduate Instructor, University of Georgia Summer 2010 – Spring 2013; Fall 2014 – Spring 2015

Average evaluation score: 4.4/5; 512 students in 12 sections

Financial Management (FINA 3000), Corporate Finance (FINA 4200), Survey of Investments (FINA 4310), Financial Modeling (FINA 4920)

Visiting Instructor, Wake Forest University

Fall 2013 – Spring 2014

Average evaluation score: 4.3/5; 208 students in 6 sections

MA in Management Program: Financial Management (FIN 2650), Applied Financial Decision-Making (FIN 2651)

MBA Program: Essential Concepts in Finance (FIN 5181), Topics in Finance: Capitalism, Markets, and Managers (FIN 5182)

SERVICE

Director, Benn Capital Markets Lab, 2017-Present

Finance Instructor for Terry College Executive Education, 2021

Five-time referee for *Journal of Corporate Finance*

Session chair at 2016 Midwest Finance Association Meetings

Discussant at 2019 European Financial Management Association Meetings

Discussant at 2017 Midwest Finance Association Meetings

SELECTED WORK EXPERIENCE

Citigroup, Vice-President of Finance

2007 – 2009

Padgett Printing Corporation, Director of Information Technology

2002 – 2007