

# Wentao Li

Baoxinliying Building, Siming Campus of Xiamen University, 422 Siming South Road  
Siming District, Xiamen, Fujian Province – 361005, China

☎ +86-17278446745 • ✉ wentao.li@xmu.edu.cn • 🌐 www.wentaoli.com  
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## Research Interests

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Asset Pricing, Asset Management, Patents

## Education

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<b>University of Oxford</b> <i>DPhil in Finance, Advisors: Martin Schmalz, Mungo Wilson</i>	<b>Oxford, UK</b> 2020–2024
<b>University of California, Los Angeles</b> <i>Visiting Graduate Researcher</i>	<b>Los Angeles, US</b> 2022–2023
<b>University of Cambridge</b> <i>MPhil in Economics, Pass with Distinction</i>	<b>Cambridge, UK</b> 2019–2020
<b>University of Birmingham</b> <i>BSc in Money, Banking and Finance, First Class with Honours (Ranking: 1/273)</i>	<b>Birmingham, UK</b> 2017–2019
<b>Sun Yat-sen University</b> <i>BEcon in Finance</i>	<b>Zhuhai, China</b> 2015–2019

## Work Experience

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<b>Xiamen University</b> <i>Assistant Professor of Finance, School of Management</i>	<b>Xiamen, China</b> 2024–present
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## Working Papers

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### Beating the Index with ETFs

This paper uncovers a new source of tax efficiency for ETFs—using highly correlated ETFs to harvest capital losses without violating the wash-sale rule. By exploiting the tax loophole, investors can potentially earn a better return than the index. The study reveals that highly correlated ETFs have an average monthly tax-loss trading volume of 9.1% of their assets under management, which accounts for 20.7% of their total trading volume. Tax-loss harvesting is negatively related to past returns, especially for recent and negative ones. ETFs with high past volatility have higher tax-loss trading volumes, while smaller and less liquid ones have lower tax-loss trading volumes. This paper develops a parsimonious model to explain the relationship between tax-loss harvesting and past price movements. Simulations with the model predict an annual tax revenue loss of 0.52% of assets under management for highly correlated ETFs, equivalent to approximately 25 billion USD in 2021.

### Talent Competition and the Direction of Innovation: Rethinking Agglomeration Benefits

- Discovering that the entry of an innovation establishment increases the patent production of incumbent firms but decreases the patents' scientific value
- Showing that the heterogeneity of labour market competition explains the shift of innovation direction
- Proposing a stylised model showing that the free-market equilibrium local hiring rate of the entrant is higher than the socially optimal level

### Term Structure of Equity Return Volatility

- Finding that volatility feedback effects of dividend strips decreasing with different horizons
- Explaining the pro-cyclical term structure of equity returns with the term structure of volatility
- Simulating and testing three leading macro-finance models according to empirical findings

## Short-Duration Equity Return Puzzle

- Constructing the expectation of S&P 500 dividends from those of constituents with IBES data
- Calculating forward-looking required rates of return and Sharpe ratios for dividend strips
- Showing conditional Sharpe ratios during crises too high to be explained by mainstream models

## Return Predictability from Industry Network Effects: Evidence from Rolling Window Adaptive Lasso

- Estimating industrial network effects with US monthly return data using the adaptive lasso
- Showing the inherent model instability of the industry network via rolling window regressions
- Examining out-of-sample predictability of the past returns by conducting non-parametric tests

## Published Paper

### Structural breaks, reserve currency and balance of payments constrained growth: a test of Thirlwall's Law in the UK (1950-2017), with Gunes Bebek, *Applied Economics*, 2021

- Applying Johansen cointegration and ARDL to estimate parameters in the extended model
- Assessing the existence of balance-of-payments constraint in the UK over time

## Conferences and Seminars

### Presenter

2025: WEHIA  
2024: World Federation of Exchanges, DKU, WKU, XMU seminars  
2023: FMA Annual Meeting, UCLA, SYSU, Oxford seminars  
2022: FMA Annual Meeting, Oxford seminar

### Discussant

2022: FMA Annual Meeting

## Academic Service

Referee: *Review of Asset Pricing Studies*, *Applied Economics*

## Research Experience

### University of Oxford

Oxford, UK

Research Assistant to Prof. Martin Schmalz and Marianne Andries

2023

- Coding in MATLAB for the Horizon-Dependent Risk Aversion (HDRA) model
- Numerically solving for the timing premium, the term structure, and other moments

### University of California, Los Angeles

Los Angeles, US

Research Assistant to Prof. William Zame

2022

- Coding in MATLAB to solve equilibrium portfolio choices of an index fund model
- Providing economic interpretations for simulation results

### University of Oxford

Oxford, UK

Research Assistant to Prof. Martin Schmalz

2022

- Coding for simulations of a common ownership model in MATLAB
- Providing economic interpretations for simulation results

### University of Oxford

Oxford, UK

Research Assistant to İrem Güçeri

2020–2021

- Cleaning Bureau van Dijk Orbis Intellectual Property database
- Conducting statistical analysis based on research needs

## Teaching Experience

### Xiamen University

Xiamen, China

Assistant Professor

2025

Security Investment

<b>Trine University</b> <i>Lecturer, NAIS International Summer School</i> Microeconomics, Macroeconomics, Linear Algebra	<b>Beijing, China</b> 2024
<b>Chang'an University</b> <i>Lecturer, NAIS International Summer School</i> Money and Banking, Public Finance, Microeconomics, Macroeconomics, Intermediate Microeconomics, Intermediate Macroeconomics, Labour Economics	<b>Xi'an, China</b> 2022, 2023
<b>University of Oxford</b> <i>Tutor, Microeconomics</i> <i>Tutor, Finance</i>	<b>Oxford, UK</b> 2021–2023 2022
<b>University of Birmingham</b> <i>Teaching Assistant, Final Revisions</i>	<b>Birmingham, UK</b> 2019
<b>Sun Yat-sen University</b> <i>Teaching Assistant, Academic Writing</i>	<b>Zhuhai, China</b> 2017

## Internship

<b>China Construction Bank</b> <i>Investment Banking Intern</i>	<b>Guangzhou, China</b> Jun 2018–Jul 2018
<b>Yuekai Securities</b> <i>Intern of Innovative Business Department</i>	<b>Huizhou, China</b> Jul 2017

## Academic Awards

Graduate Award, St Peter's College	2023
DPhil Conference Fund, Saïd Business School	2022–2024
Saïd Business School Foundation Scholarship, Saïd Business School	2020–2024
Economics Undergraduate Extended Essay Prize (No.1), University of Birmingham	2019
Economics Undergraduate Final Year Prize (No.1), University of Birmingham	2019
Second-class Merit Scholarship (Top 10%), Sun Yat-sen University	2017
Honorable Award, Interdisciplinary Contest in Modeling (MCM/ICM)	2017
Second-class Merit Scholarship (Top 10%), Sun Yat-sen University	2016
First Prize, Guangdong Undergraduate Mathematics Competition	2016

## Skills

### Software.....

Stata, MATLAB, EViews, Python, SPSS, L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X, Office

### Databases.....

Bloomberg, Datastream, WRDS, CRSP, IBES, OptionMetrics, ORBIS, Wind, CSMAR, Government Databases

### Languages.....

English (fluent), Mandarin (mother tongue), Cantonese (mother tongue)

## Certificates

CFA Program, Level III Pass  
Certificate of Security Industry Qualification, China  
Certificate of Accounting Profession, China  
National Computer Rank Examination of China Level II