Taisiya Sikorskaya

Assistant Professor of Finance

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Academic Positions

University of Chicago Booth School of Business, United States
Assistant Professor of Finance, 2024 - present

Education

London Business School, United Kingdom
PhD in Finance, 2024

London Business School, United Kingdom
MRes in Finance, 2019

University of St. Gallen, Switzerland
MA in Quantitative Economics and Finance, 2017

Chelyabinsk State University, Russia
Diplom (MSc) in Mathematical Methods in Economics and Operations Research, 2013. *Distinction*

Refereeing

Journal of Finance; Journal of Financial and Quantitative Analysis; Journal of Empirical Finance; Management Science; Review of Finance; Review of Financial Studies

Awards and Honours

Top Finance Graduate Award, 2024
Colorado Finance Summit Best Paper Award, 2023
European Economic Association Econ JM Best Paper Award, 2023
AQR Asset Management Institute Fellowship Award, 2022
Finalist for the Crowell Prize, PanAgora Asset Management, 2022
Professor Sir James Ball PhD Award, London Business School, 2021
Fellowship for Doctoral Students, London Business School, 2017-2023
The STARR International Foundation Grant, Switzerland, 2013-2014
The President of Russia Award for Outstanding Students (awarded twice), 2012
The City Administration Award (Chelyabinsk, Russia), 2010

Published Papers

Retail Trading in Options and the Rise of the Big Three Wholesalers
(with S. Bryzgalova and A. Pavlova). *The Journal of Finance, 78(6), 2023, pp. 3465-3514.*
We document a rapid increase in retail trading in options in the U.S. Facilitated by payment for order flow (PFOF) from wholesalers executing retail orders, retail trading recently reached over 60% of the total market volume. Nearly 90% of PFOF comes from three wholesalers. Exploiting new flags in transaction-level data, we isolate wholesaler trades and build a novel measure of retail options trading. Our measure comoves with equity-based retail activity proxies and drops significantly during U.S. brokerage platform outages and trading restrictions. Retail investors prefer cheaper, weekly options, with the average bid-ask spread of a whopping 12.6%, and lose money on average.
Media mentions: Bloomberg (2022), Bloomberg Opinion (2023), Bloomberg What Goes Up podcast (2022), FT Letters to the Editor (2023), The Economist (2023), The Wall Street Journal (live, 2023), Traders Magazine (2023), Risk.net (2022)

Benchmarking Intensity (with A. Pavlova).
The Review of Financial Studies, 36(3), 2023, pp. 859–903. ***Editor's Choice.***
Benchmarking incentivizes fund managers to invest a fraction of their funds' assets in their benchmark indices, and such demand is inelastic. We construct a measure of inelastic demand a stock attracts, benchmarking intensity (BMI), computed as its cumulative weight in all benchmarks, weighted by assets following each benchmark. Exploiting the Russell 1000/2000 cutoff, we show that changes in stocks' BMIs instrument for changes in ownership of benchmarked investors. The resulting demand elasticities are low. We document that both active and passive fund managers buy additions to their benchmarks and sell deletions. Finally, an increase in BMI lowers future stock returns.

Working Papers

Institutional Investors, Securities Lending, and Short-Selling Constraints
Institutions facilitate short-selling by lending from their holdings, but what they hold is endogenous. This paper examines how institutional demand, driven by investment mandates (benchmarking), affects short-selling. In a model where benchmarked managers lend from their holdings, both lending supply and equilibrium price are higher for the benchmark asset, and so is shorting demand (due to inflated price). A quasi-experiment using Russell index reconstitution shows that stocks with more benchmarked capital have greater lending supply and demand. Ultimately, such stocks are *costlier* to short. In theory and data, results are driven by incomplete pass-through from institutional holdings to lending supply.
Received: European Economic Association Econ Job Market Best Paper Award (2023), Top Finance Graduate Award (2024)

Strategic Arbitrage in Segmented Markets (with S. Bryzgalova and A. Pavlova).
Revise & Resubmit at *The Journal of Financial Economics.*

We propose a model in which arbitrageurs act strategically in markets with entry costs. In a repeated game, arbitrageurs choose to specialize in some markets, which leads to the highest combined profits. We present evidence consistent with our theory from the options market, in which suboptimally unexercised options create arbitrage opportunities for intermediaries. Using transaction-level data, we identify the corresponding arbitrage trades. Consistent with the model, only 57% of these opportunities attract entry by arbitrageurs. Of those that do, 49% attract only one arbitrageur. Finally, our paper details how market participants circumvent a regulation devised to curtail this arbitrage strategy.
(Subsumes 'Profiting from Investor Mistakes: Evidence from Suboptimal Option Exercise.')

Received: Colorado Finance Summit Best Paper Award (2023)

Media mentions: Risk.net (2024)

Two APs Are Better Than One: ETF Mispricing and Primary Market Participation
(with E. Gorbatikov)

Exchange-traded funds (ETFs) depend on arbitrageurs to correct deviations between a fund's price and its fair value. ETFs have designated brokers, or authorized participants (APs), who have a unique right to create and redeem ETF shares, and who can thus trade on ETF mispricing without risk. Using novel regulatory filings, we provide the first description of the US ETF-AP network. It has a dense core and a sparse periphery, and the observed creation/redemption volumes are highly concentrated. The level of mispricing in a US equity ETF is negatively related to the fund's primary market diversity, especially during times of high market volatility. Funds that share more APs exhibit stronger mispricing comovement. We theoretically show that diverse primary markets help mitigate the effect of shocks to AP-specific arbitrage costs. We highlight the importance of AP balance sheet usage costs in ETF markets by exploiting the Federal Reserve's purchases of bond ETFs in 2020.

Media mentions: Bloomberg (2023)

Academic Presentations (external)

2024: Adam Smith Workshop, AFA, ASSA Meetings, Bank of Canada, BI-SHoF conference*, Columbia Business School, Cornell University, Duke's Fuqua School of Business, EFA*, ESSEC*, FIRS, Harvard Business School, HEC Paris, HKU*, HKUST*, London School of Economics, NTU*, NUS*, NYU Stern School of Business, Purdue University, SMU*, Stanford Graduate School of Business, Stockholm Business School*, Temple University*, University of Chicago Booth School of Business, USC Marshall School of Business, UC Irvine*, UCLA*, UT Austin McCombs School of Business, Virtual Derivatives Workshop*, Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania, World Symposium on Investment Research, Yale School of Management

2023: AFA*, Bayes Business School*, Colorado Finance Summit*, Dauphine Finance PhD Workshop, HEC PhD Workshop on Incentives in Finance, Indiana University*, Junior Academic Research Seminar in Finance, NBER Asset Pricing Fall Meeting*, NFA, Q Group Spring Seminar*, SAFE Market Microstructure Conference, TADC, The Microstructure Exchange, Women in Microstructure Meeting, U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission*, USC Marshall PhD Conference in Finance, Vanguard seminar*

2022: AFA (video), AFA*, Bank of America*, Cambridge Centre for Alternative Finance, CDI Annual Conference on Derivatives*, Chicago Fed, Florida International University*, Indiana University*, London Quant Group*, Miami Behavioral Finance Conference*, NBER Asset Pricing Spring Meeting*, NBER Behavioral Finance*, NFA*, Queen Mary University of London*, Stockholm Business School*, Tel Aviv Finance Conference*, The Microstructure Exchange (video), TMX Group, University of Central Florida*, University of Hong Kong*, University of Notre Dame*, Virtual Derivatives Workshop (video), YSFC*

2021: Adam Smith Workshop*, ASSA Meetings, EFA, European Winter Finance Conference, FMA*, INSEAD Finance Symposium*, MFA, NBER Behavioral Finance Spring Meeting*, NFA, SFS Cavalcade North America, University of Bath, Vienna Graduate School of Finance*, World Symposium on Investment Research

* *Presentations by co-authors.*

Other Work Experience	**Bank of England, London, UK** PhD Intern (part-time), 08/2021–04/2022 **London Business School** Teaching Assistant (part-time), 2018–2021 **London School of Economics** Research Assistant to Prof. Dimitri Vayanos (part-time), 2020-2021 **London Business School** Research Assistant to Prof. Svetlana Bryzgalova (part-time), 2020 **ThirdYear Capital GmbH, Munich, Germany** Global Macro Analysis Intern, 01/2017–04/2017 **Deutsche Asset Management, Deutsche Bank UK** Assistant Portfolio Manager, ETF Portfolio Management, 10/2015–09/2016 **Deutsche Asset Management, Deutsche Bank Switzerland** Working Student (part-time), Credit Portfolio Management, 10/2014–10/2015
Other	**Languages:** Russian (native), English (proficient), German (intermediate) **Certifications:** Completed Level III of CFA examination in 2016