

Sahil Raina

Finance and Statistical Analysis
Alberta School of Business
Edmonton, AB, Canada T6G 2R6

Phone: +1-780-492-7598
E-mail: sraina@ualberta.ca
Web: sites.ualberta.ca/~sraina

Academic Employment

University of Alberta, Alberta School of Business

Assistant Professor, Finance, 2016–present.

SSHRC IDG Grant PI, 2021–2023.

Xerox Faculty Fellow, 2017–2018.

EFF/SAS Grant Recipient, 2019–2020.

Education

University of Michigan, Ross School of Business, Ph.D. Finance, 2016.

Columbia University, School of International and Public Affairs, M.I.A., 2009.

Princeton University, A.B., 2005.

Research Interests

Entrepreneurship finance; politics and finance; empirical corporate finance; gender and finance; household finance.

Research

Published

Wall Street and the Housing Bubble (with Ing-Haw Cheng and Wei Xiong), *American Economic Review*, 2014.

We analyze whether midlevel managers in securitized finance were aware of a large-scale housing bubble and a looming crisis in 2004-2006 using their personal home transaction data. We find that the average person in our sample did not exhibit awareness of problems in overall housing markets. Certain groups of securitization agents were particularly aggressive in increasing their exposure to housing during this period, suggesting the need to expand the incentives-based view of the crisis to incorporate a role for beliefs.

Ultimate Ownership and Bank Competition (with José Azar and Martin Schmalz, *Financial Management*, 2021.

We document substantial time-series and cross-sectional variation in branch-level deposit account interest rates, maintenance fees, and fee thresholds, and examine whether variation in bank concentration helps explain variation in these prices. HHI alone is not correlated with any of the outcome variables. A “generalized HHI” (GHHI) capturing both common ownership (the degree to which banks are commonly owned by the same investors) and cross-ownership (the extent to which banks own shares in each other), is strongly correlated with all prices, even when we limit cross-sectional variation in bank ownership to only that predicted by the growth of index funds.

Working Papers

VCS, Founders, and the Performance Gender Gap, 2021.

VC-financed startups led by women perform worse than startups led by men. Do VCs influence this performance gap? To answer this question, I compare the gender gap in performance between startups initially financed by syndicates led by VCs with only male GPs and startups financed by syndicates led by VCs with female GPs. I find a much larger performance gap among startups financed by syndicates with only male lead GPs. I show this disparity is driven by differences in VCs' ability to evaluate female-led startups. These findings imply that VCs contributed to the performance gender gap in startups.

Partisan Gerrymandering, Congressional Polarization, and Distributive Politics (with Sheng-Jun Xu), 2021.

We study how electoral competition affects the flow of government-subsidized small business loans to congressional districts. To identify the causal impact of electoral competitiveness, we examine the politically-motivated manipulation of congressional redistricting, colloquially known as "gerrymandering". Specifically, we exploit the discontinuity in post-redistricting electoral competitiveness between districts where redistricting party incumbents narrowly won and narrowly lost the pre-redistricting election. Using a regression discontinuity design, we find that districts with electorally vulnerable Congressional Representatives receive more Small Business Administration (SBA) loans than districts with more entrenched Representatives, and this leads to higher local employment and wage growth in the short run.

Previous title: *Trading Credit (Subsidies) for Votes: The Effect of Local Politics on Small Business Lending*

Financial Constraints of Entrepreneurs and the Self-Employed (with Vyacheslav Mikhed and Barry Scholnick), 2021.

Growth-oriented entrepreneurial start-ups generate more economic growth than other self-employed businesses, yet they only constitute a small fraction of start-ups. We examine whether financial constraints impede these types of start-ups by exploiting lottery wins as exogenous wealth shocks. We find that lottery-win magnitude increases winners' subsequent incorporation, implying that entrepreneurs face financial constraints, but not business registration, implying that financial constraints do not bind as much for the self-employed. Our results, that financial constraints bind for incorporations among men, for serial entrepreneurs, during economic booms, and in neighborhoods without local lenders, are important for understanding the financial impediments to entrepreneurial start-ups.

The Effect of Competition in Upstream and Downstream Industries on Firm Boundaries (with Kuncheng Zheng), 2021.

What determines the scope of a firm? This is not only a central topic in the economics of organization but also a critical concern for antitrust regulators and corporate strategists. In this paper, we study how competition in adjacent (upstream and downstream) industries affects firm boundaries in four dimensions (a firm's adjacent industries, co-supplier industries, and unrelated industries). To identify causal effects, we use instrumented Chinese import penetration into adjacent industries as exogenous competition shocks in those industries. We find that greater competition in adjacent industries shrinks firm boundaries with respect to adjacent industries, which is consistent with cost-based hypotheses in the literature. Our results for unrelated industries indicate that firms diversify when adjacent industry competition may threaten their survival, which is consistent with agency-based hypotheses. Our research highlights the importance of out-of-industry impacts of competition and has implications for policy relating to acquisitions and international trade

Works in Progress

CEO Connections and Collusion (with Ran Duchin and Kuncheng Zheng)

Payday Lender Effect on Household Financial Outcomes (with Anson Ho, Sheila Kulkarni, and Barry Scholnick)

Cheating in Personal Bankruptcy (with Slava Mikhed, Barry Scholnick, and Mandy Zhang)

Conferences & Seminars

Presentations

2021: University of Alberta Finance Brownbag Series; Junior Household Finance Workshop; IIOC; Wilfrid Laurier University (Lazaridis); *University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee (Lubar)*

2020: ASU Sonoran Winter Finance Conference*; Finance Down Under; FIRS (rescheduled); WFA*; Northeastern Finance Conference; EFA; NFA

2019: Midwest Finance Association; Macquarie University; University of New South Wales; Queensland University of Technology; ISB CAF Summer Research Conference; Paris December Finance Meeting

2018: CFIC; Frontiers in Finance

2017: Finance Down Under; Bank of England; FIRS; Frontiers in Finance; EFA; Alberta Finance Institute

2016: Baruch College (Zicklin); University of Alberta (ASoB); University of Connecticut (SoB); Federal Reserve Board of Governors; University of Miami (SoBA); University of Utah (Eccles); Norwegian School of Economics; Aalto University; IIOC; NYU/NY Fed/RFS; Frontiers in Finance

2015: University of Michigan (Ross); Peking HSBC Business School; Wayne State University (Ilitch); Temple University (Fox); Fordham University (Gabelli)

2014: University of Michigan (Ross)

2013: EFA

Italicized items are scheduled. Starred items are presented by a co-author.

Discussions

2020: AFA

2019: Midwest Finance Association; FIRS; ISB CAF Summer Research Conference; NFA; Colorado Finance Summit; Paris December Finance Meeting

2017: NFA; HEC workshop on Entrepreneurship

2016: IIOC; NFA; Tel Aviv Finance Conference

Italicized items are scheduled.

Teaching

Instructor, FIN 702 – Advanced Seminar in Finance, PhD, Alberta School of Business, Fall 2020, Winter 2019, Winter 2018.

Instructor, FIN 614 – Investments, MBA, Alberta School of Business, Fall 2020, Fall 2019, Winter 2019, Winter 2018, Winter 2017.

Instructor, FIN 495 – Independent Research, BCom, Alberta School of Business, Winter 2020, Fall 2019, Spring/Summer 2018, Spring/Summer 2017.

Instructor, FIN 412 – Investments, BCom, Alberta School of Business, Fall 2020, Fall 2019, Winter 2017.

Instructor, FIN 317 – Corporate Financing Decisions, BBA, Ross School of Business, Spring 2012.

Service

Referee

Journal of Banking and Finance, Journal of Political Economy, Management Science, Review of Finance, The Review of Financial Studies.

Doctoral program

Organizer, PhD student pre-seminar discussion, University of Alberta, 2017-19.

Doctoral student advising

Supervisor: Linfeng Tian, University of Alberta, ongoing.

Supervisory committee member: Weisu Yu, University of Alberta, ongoing; Rodrigo Cardenas, University of Alberta, ongoing; Joseph DeCoste, University of Alberta, ongoing; Bordin Bordeerath, University of Alberta, 2019-21; Asif Malik, University of Alberta, 2017-19; Yusuke Tsujimoto, University of Alberta, ongoing; Xiaowen Zhang, University of Alberta, ongoing.

Candidacy committee external reader: Chong Meng, University of Alberta, 2017.

Faculty advisor: Business Finance Association.

Honors, Awards, & Fellowships

SSHRC Insight Development Grant, PI, 2021–2023.

EFF/SAS Grant, PI, 2019–2020.

AGRI Major Grant, Co-PI, 2018–2020.

Xerox Faculty Fellowship, Alberta School of Business, 2017–2018.

Mitsui Life Award (for best performance in second year), Ross School of Business, 2011–2012.

Mitsui Life Award (for best performance in first year), Ross School of Business, 2010–2011.

RSB and Rodkey Fellowship Recipient, University of Michigan, 2010–present.

Alice Stetten Fellowship, Columbia University, 2008–2009.

Robert C. Byrd Scholarship, Princeton University, 2001–2005.

National Merit Scholarship, 2001–2003.