

Fanning MENG

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EDUCATION

Expected JULY 2016 Ph.D. in ECONOMICS, **University of Tennessee, Knoxville**, Tennessee
Major: International Economics
Dissertation: "Essays on economic forecasting with many predictors"
Advisor: Prof. Luiz LIMA

DECEMBER 2012 M.A. in ECONOMICS, **University of Tennessee, Knoxville**, Tennessee

JUNE 2011 B.A. in FINANCE, **Centr. Univ. of Finance and Economics**, Beijing, China

PERSONAL

Marital status: Married (1 kid)
Citizenship : Chinese (Canadian permanent resident)

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Forecasting, International Economics, international trade, Behavioral and Experimental Economics

TEACHING INTERESTS

Microeconomics, Principals of Economics, International Economics, Forecasting, Business and Government, Industrial Organization

ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

Research Graduate Assistant to Dr. Luiz Lima, Univ. of Tennessee, (2014-present)
Research Graduate Assistant to Dr. Scott Holladay and Dr. Jacob LaRiviere (F 2012 - S 2013)
Howard Baker Jr. Center for Public Policy

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Instructor Undergraduate level at Univ. of Tennessee
Econ 331: Intermediate Economics (Su 2015)
Econ 311: Government and Business (S 2015)
Econ 201: Principles of Economics (Su 2013, F 2013)

Teaching Assistant Undergraduate level
Econ 201: Principles of Economics (F 2014)
Bus Admin 361: The Firm in a Global Context (F 2011, S 2012)

WORKING PAPERS

“Out-of-Sample Stock Return Prediction: what have we missed?”, with Luiz Lima

Abstract: Finance models treat stock return forecasts as conditional expectations of returns. In periods of financial turmoil, OLS estimation of the conditional mean may be affected by the presence of occasional but extreme observations, which lowers accuracy of the mean-squared-prediction-error (MSPE) forecast. This paper uses a location-scale model to show that a forecasting method based on an averaging scheme applied to quantiles conditional on predictors selected by LASSO, yields robust MSPE forecasts that consistently outperform the historical average and many other forecasting models of stock returns.

“Optimal Density Forecasts of the Equity Risk Premium”, with Luiz Lima (Third-Year Paper)

Abstract: This paper evaluates the performance of density forecasts derived from univariate and multivariate econometric models, based on either point (mean) forecasts or the underlying explanatory variables which generate those point forecasts. Due to the “curse of dimensionality” issue in macroeconomic forecasting literature, we form our first conjecture that univariate models would outperform multivariate models, given a relative short data set. Moreover, since point forecasts are obtained from the underlying explanatory variables containing private information, we expect that point forecasts can serve as a good substitute for explanatory variables in density forecast construction. The application on equity risk premium forecasting verifies these two hypotheses. Based on the Gaglianone, Lima, Linton and Smith (GLLS) (2002) and coverage rate test results, we see that, on one hand, multivariate models have relative poor performance compared to univariate models regardless of the availability of private information. On the other hand, although, on average, models based on private information perform better in terms of predictive ability, there are cases in which models built on single point forecast exhibit great predictability. This is mainly because the point forecasts are derived from some significant explanatory variable, such as the Equity Premium Risk Volatility (RVOL) in equity risk premium forecast, a result that is consistent with that in Neely et. al. (2013).

WORK IN PROCESS

“LASSO-PC and EN-PC MIDAS model on GDP forecasts”, with Luiz Lima.

“Censored Quantile Regression on Equity premium forecasts”, with Wagner Gaglianone and Luiz Lima.

“Why do new exporters die young?”

“Social Norms and Stealing: A Field Experiment”, with Okila Elboeva and Shukhrat Musinov.

CONFERENCE/WORKSHOP PRESENTATIONS

“Out-of-Sample Stock Return Prediction: what have we missed?”
International Symposium of Forecasting, Riverside, LA, June 2015

Univ. of Tennessee Brown Bag Research Workshop, Knoxville, TN, March 2015

HONORS AND AWARDS

J.Fred and Wilma Holly Award for Excellence in Presented Research, Univ. of Tennessee, 2015

Graduate Student Senate Travel Awards, Univ. of Tennessee, 2015

Graduate Assistantship, Univ. of Tennessee, 2011-present

National Scholarship, Beijing, China, 2011-2015

"Pass with Distinction" for Microeconomic competition exam, Univ. of Tennessee, 2012

Departmental Scholarship, Central Univ. of Finance and Economics, China, 2010

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

Referee: *Journal of Economic Behaviour & Organization*

Membership: International Institute of Forecasters

Certificate: Marketplace Trainers Certificate

Graduate Teaching Certification Program (in progress)

Intern: Nan Yang Commercial Bank, Beijing, China (2010)

PROFICIENCIES

Computing software: R, Stata, Matlab, E-views

Teaching and others: TurningPoint(Clicker Technology), Marketplace®Live(Trained), LaTeX

Languages: English, Chinese (Native)

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

American Economic Association, International Institute of Forecasters

REFERENCES

Luiz Lima (Advisor)
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