

Graduate School of Finance Newsletter 01/2025



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Happy New Year from the Graduate School of Finance!

We want to wish you all the best for the new year 2025 and share with you the latest news from the Graduate School of Finance (GSF).

Doctoral Dissertations by GSF Students in 2024

In 2024, four doctoral students from the GSF member universities finished their doctoral degrees in Finance: Matteo Vacca (Aalto) "*Three Essays in Behavioral and Corporate Finance*", Habeeb Yahya (Turku) "*ESG and Financial Performance of Firms: Nordic Evidence*", Sinh Thoi Mai (Hanken) "*Essays on Monetary Policy Shocks and Firm Strategic Response: Applications of Machine Learning Methods*" and Alexander Back (Hanken) "*Essays on Volatility Modeling*".

All of them have chosen to continue their careers in academia. Dr. Matteo Vacca (Aalto) joined Hanken as a tenure track Assistant Professor in Finance. Dr. Habeeb Yahya continues as a postdoctoral researcher at the University of Turku and Dr. Alexander Back as a lecturer at Hanken. Dr. Sinh Thoi Mai (Hanken) in turn has started as an Assistant Professor at ISEG - Lisbon School of Economics & Management, University of Lisbon. Congratulations to all!

You can learn more about last year's dissertations as well as other finance dissertations since 2005 on the [GSF website](#).

Award for the Best Finance PhD Paper Presented at the GSF Workshops in 2024



PhD student Sina Seyfi, Professor Anders Löflund, GSF Director Mikko Leppämäki & Professor Markku Kaustia

Mr. Sina Seyfi (Aalto University) received the award for the Best Finance PhD Paper Presented at the GSF Workshops in 2024 for his paper “*Basis Portfolios*”. The award was presented at the GSF Winter Workshop in Finance in November by the chairman of the GSF Board, Professor Anders Löflund, GSF Director Mikko Leppämäki and Professor Markku Kaustia.

Sina is currently a fifth year PhD student at Aalto with plans to enter the international job market next year. His research interests are in empirical asset pricing and machine learning. Sina is currently on a research visit at Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam.

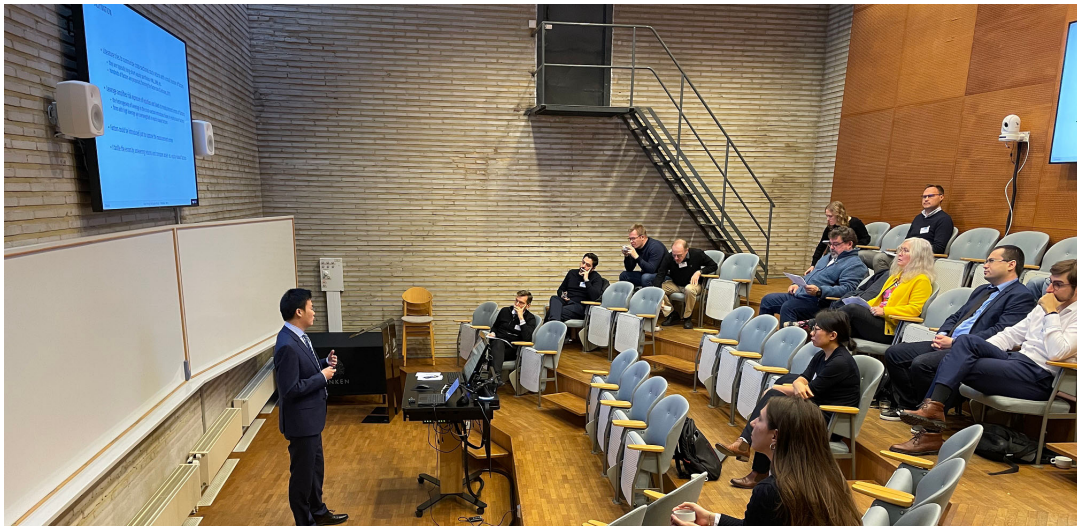
GSF on LinkedIn

You can now find the [GSF on LinkedIn](#) to follow our latest updates.

The Nordic Finance Network also has [its own LinkedIn page](#).



News from the Nordic Finance Network (NFN)



Phd Student Chunjie Wang (SSE) presenting his paper at the Young Scholars Nordic Finance Workshop in Hanken

In November 2024 the NFN organized the 13th annual Young Scholars Nordic Finance Workshop in Helsinki in collaboration with Hanken School of Economics. The workshop featured presentations by assistant professors and job market candidates from six Nordic universities.

The next NFN workshop, the PhD Nordic Finance Workshop, will take place in May at Copenhagen Business School.

Year 2024 was a record year in terms of NFN travel grants. The NFN awarded travel grants to 40 Finance PhD students from Nordic universities to cover their travel costs when attending a doctoral course in another Nordic country. The NFN's aim is to promote mobility and networking among Nordic doctoral students, and the number of travel grants indicates a clear need for such support.

The GSF has many interesting activities coming up in the spring and summer. We will report on those in our next GSF newsletter for alumni that will be sent out in the beginning of the fall semester.

If you have suggestions on what you would like to read about in our future newsletters, please feel free to send us suggestions at gsf@aalto.fi

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