Thomas K. Poulsen — Curriculum Vitae

Copenhagen Business School
Department of Finance
Solbjerg Plads 3, D4.17
2000 Frederiksberg, Denmark

Email: tkp.fi@cbs.dk
Phone: (+45) 40575332
Web: sites.google.com/view/poulsen

Education

Copenhagen Business School
Ph.D. in Finance, 2019 (expected)
M.Sc. in Advanced Economics & Finance, 2014
B.Sc. in International Business & Politics, 2012

Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Sloan School of Management
Visiting Ph.D. student, sponsor: Associate Professor Hui Chen, 2016

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Kenan-Flagler Business School
Exchange student, 2011

Research Interests

Asset pricing, corporate finance, financial economics

Research

Does Debt Explain the Investment Premium?
- *Job market paper*

The investment premium — the finding that firms with low asset growth deliver high average returns — is an integral part of recent factor models. I document empirically that the investment premium (1) reflects leverage, (2) does not exist among zero-leverage firms, and (3) increases with firms' refinancing intensities. This new evidence challenges prominent explanations of the investment premium including the q-theory of investment and behavioral finance. To explain the evidence, I develop a model in which firms make both optimal investment and financing decisions. The model shows that the investment premium reflects both leverage and refinancing intensities consistent with my empirical findings.

What Determines Bid-Ask Spreads in Over-the-Counter Markets?
- *with Peter Feldhütter*

We document cross-sectional variation in bid-ask spreads in the U.S. corporate bond market and use the variation to test OTC theories of the bid-ask spread. Bid-ask spreads, measured by realized transaction costs, increase with maturity for investment grade but not for speculative grade bonds. For short-maturity bonds, spreads increase with credit risk while long-maturity bonds rated AAA/AA+ have significantly higher spreads than other investment grade bonds. We find that dealer inventory is the most important determinant of the variation in bid-ask spreads. How bond sales travel through the network of dealers also explains part of the variation, particularly for speculative grade bonds. In contrast, search-and-bargaining frictions and asymmetric information have limited explanatory power.

The Liquidity Cushion in Callable Bonds
- *work in progress*

I find that yield spreads on callable corporate bonds are less than half as sensitive to changes in illiquidity compared to straight (non-callable) bonds. I use a corporate finance model to show that the market value of bonds decreases when liquidity deteriorates and it is less attractive to issue new bonds. The option to call and refinance outstanding bonds is therefore less valuable and this feature provides a cushion against illiquidity. Callable yield spreads therefore increase less than straight yield spreads when liquidity deteriorates.

Presentations

2017: PhD Nordic Finance Workshop (Copenhagen, Denmark)

Teaching Experience

Lecturer:
Corporate Finance (B.Sc.-level), 2016-2018, teaching evaluations 4.9/5, 4.4/5, and 4.3/5

Teaching Assistant:
Asset Pricing (M.Sc.-level), 2014, teaching evaluation 4.7/5

Supervision:
B.Sc. and M.Sc. theses in asset pricing and corporate finance

Non-Academic Experience

Danske Bank Markets, 2013, Internship at the Investment Banking Division, Denmark
Breinholt Consulting, 2008-2012, Held positions as Junior Consultant, Analyst, and Controller, Denmark

Other Skills

Software: SAS, R, STATA, Mathematica, and VBA
Language: Danish (native), English (fluent), German (basic)

References

Professor Peter Feldhütter
Copenhagen Business School
Department of Finance
Solbjerg Plads 3
2000 Frederiksberg, Denmark
Email: pf.fi@cbs.dk

Professor Lasse Heje Pedersen
Copenhagen Business School
Department of Finance
Solbjerg Plads 3
2000 Frederiksberg, Denmark
Email: lhp.fi@cbs.dk

Professor Kristian R. Miltersen (main supervisor)
Copenhagen Business School
Department of Finance
Solbjerg Plads 3
2000 Frederiksberg, Denmark
Email: krm.fi@cbs.dk