

2025 CURRENT ISSUES IN ALTERNATIVES RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM

Ropes & Gray | 1211 6th Ave, New York City, NY

THURSDAY JANUARY 16, 2025

12:30–1:00 PM

CHECK-IN (*light lunch served*)

1:00 – 2:45 PM

SESSION I: PRIVATE FUNDS FOR THE PEOPLE

Recent Trends in Evergreen Private Funds

[\[Presentation\]](#)

Mike Ewens, *Columbia Business School*

This presentation documents the recent rapid growth in private funds including a description of fund terms and characteristics. The analysis also considers potential differences from traditional closed-end draw-down funds in underlying portfolios driven by differences in fund structure and incentives.

The Private Capital Alpha

[\[Presentation\]](#) & [\[Paper\]](#)

Greg Brown, *UNC Kenan-Flagler & Institute for Private Capital*

[Andrei Goncalves](#), *Ohio State University Fisher College of Business*

Wendy Hu, *MSCI*

We develop a method for estimating the alpha generated by adding private funds to a portfolio of public stocks and bonds. Unlike alternative methods that ignore illiquidity and under-diversification, we carefully consider the economic realities of investing in private markets. Then using a large sample of 4,678 U.S. buyout, venture capital, and real estate funds, we estimate the alphas of private capital asset classes under realistic simulations. We find that buyout funds as an asset class have provided a positive and statistically significant alpha during our sample period. In contrast, over our sample period, the venture capital alpha was positive but statistically unreliable and the real estate alpha was likely negative.

Panel Discussion: Managing Evergreen Funds

Moderator: Monique Austin, *HarbourVest*

Panelists: Robert Collins, *Partners Group*

Justin Hirsch, *Vista Equity Partners*

Justin Park, *KKR*

By construction evergreen funds have different investment and redemption features than traditional closed-end funds. However, other features differ as well and together these differences may affect decisions such as type, timing, and strategy for fund investments. This panel examines issues related to evergreen fund portfolio management that are important for both GPs and LPs to consider when making investment decisions.

2:45 – 3:15 PM

NETWORKING BREAK

3:15 – 5:00 PM

SESSION II: UNDERSTANDING INVESTORS IN PRIVATE FUNDS

Asset Demands of US Households

[\[Presentation\]](#) & [\[Paper\]](#)

Xavier Gabaix, *Harvard University*

Ralph S. J. Koijen, *University of Chicago, Booth School of Business*

Federico Mainardi, *University of Chicago, Booth School of Business*

Sangmin Simon Oh, *Columbia Business School*

Motohiro Yogo, *Princeton University*

We use novel monthly security-level data on U.S. household portfolio holdings, flows, and returns to analyze asset demand across an extensive range of asset classes, including both public and private assets. Our dataset covers a broad range of households across the wealth distribution, notably including 439 billionaires. With these data, we study the portfolio rebalancing behavior of households. Our findings reveal a stark contrast: less affluent households sell U.S. equities amid market downturns, while ultra-high net worth (UHNW) households buy and contribute to stabilizing markets. Our framework paints a quantitative picture of U.S. households' assets and rebalancing marked by a great deal of insensitivity and inertia throughout the distribution, even for UHNW households.

Tyranny of the Personal Network: The Limits of Arm's Length Fundraising in Venture Capital

[\[Presentation\]](#) & [\[Paper\]](#)

Sabrina Howell, *New York University Stern School of Business*

Dean Parker, *New York University Stern School of Business*

Ting Xu, *University of Toronto, Rotman School of Management*

The central tension in securities regulation is between protecting investors and enabling broad capital formation. We study key tools of investor protection in private markets: enforcing relationship-based fundraising and restricting eligible investors. A new policy permitting public advertising is disproportionately used by less well-networked, underrepresented fund managers and is less sensitive to local conditions. Yet it has limited take-up because track record matters at arm's length while strong networks matter in relationship financing.

Panel Discussion: The Investor Perspective

Moderator: Christian Lundblad, *UNC Kenan-Flagler & Institute for Private Capital*

Panelists: Paul Jodice, *Morgan Stanley*

Russell Lane, *The Carlyle Group*

Mark Robillard, *Fidelity Investments*

Who should be invested in evergreen funds, and how should they allocate across strategies? This panel examines the growing array of fund options and investor types who may benefit from exposure to private funds.

5:00 – 6:00 PM

CLOSING REMARKS & NETWORKING RECEPTION

GENEROUS SUPPORT FOR THE SYMPOSIUM HAS BEEN PROVIDED BY:

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