

Virginia Traweek

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Education

PhD Studies	Finance, University of Michigan, 2018-Present Finance, University of Texas at Dallas, 2015-2018
Master of Science	Health Administration, University of Alabama at Birmingham, 2012
Master of Science	Finance, Texas A&M University, 2007
Bachelor	Environmental Design, Texas A&M University, 2005

Research Interests

Financial intermediation, corporate finance, household finance

Working Papers

“A Tale of Two Cities: The Rural/Urban Divide in Banking” (job market paper)

Bank branches in counties with a high rural population offer certificate of deposit (CD) rates of up to 18% higher than banks in counties that are more urban. There is a strong association between rural CD rates and lack of trust in financial markets. Furthermore, the effect is stronger in low-education rural counties. This association remains after controlling for aspects such as size, competition, economies of scale, and an exogenous supply shock to bank capital. Finally, I show that higher CD rates in rural counties are passed through to rural borrowers in the form of higher loan rates. Overall, my findings highlight an important link between trust in financial markets and its effect on saving and borrowing rates.

“Depositor Behavior, Institutional Trust, and Race: Evidence from the Freedman’s Savings Bank” (coauthored with Malcolm Wardlaw)

Using a novel dataset from the Freedman’s Savings and Trust Bank, a large, multi-branch 19th century bank chartered to serve newly freed American slaves in the aftermath of the U.S. Civil War, we examine how depositor behavior evolves through time from the founding of a bank to its eventual collapse. We find that conditions which impact trust in government have a strong impact on banking participation, and that the response to financial panics is strongly influenced by local familiarity rather than the city-to-city transmission of information. Finally, we find the minority white account holders were twice as likely to close their account prior to the collapse than nonwhite account holders. Our results demonstrate how the inherent fragility of banks and bank-like institutions can disproportionately impact wealth accumulation in disenfranchised populations.

“100 Years of Banking” (coauthored with Amiyatosh Purnanandam and Taylor Begley)

Using a novel dataset consisting of over 100 years of bank branch location data, we summarize the growth of mainstream and shadow banking for three states in the Midwest United States. Our results show the relative size of the banking and shadow bank industries throughout the 1900s. First, we demonstrate a sharp divide between rural and urban counties in access to finance. Second, we show a persistent substitution across financial institutions. Our results demonstrate that shadow banking is not a new innovation in American society.

Conference Presentations

(includes conference presentations by co-authors)

2022 AFA
2021 SFS Cavalcade North America
2019 The Financial Intermediation Research Society
2019 Midwest Finance Association

Awards

2021 Diversity Equity and Inclusion Research Award for “Depositor Behavior, Institutional Trust, and Race: Evidence from the Freedman’s Savings Bank”, Ross Business School

Professional Service

Referee: Review of Finance

Teaching Experience

TA - Finance and Society Class (MBA), University of Michigan, Spring 2021
Instructor - Financial Management (Undergrad), University of Michigan, Spring 2020
TA - Financial Management (Undergrad), University of Michigan, Fall 2017
TA – Financial Management (MBA) University of Texas at Dallas, Fall 2016
TA - Business Finance (Undergrad) University of Texas at Dallas, Fall 2015

Industry Experience**Creator, Senior Housing Move.com, Dallas, TX, April 2011 – August 2015**

Created consumer-focused blog for seniors, wrote three books on the subject, and spoke to seniors and financial professionals about the social and financial details of continuing care retirement communities

Associate, Greenbrier Development, Dallas, TX, January 2008 – April 2011

Specialized in financial and demographic projections, market analysis, and regulatory filings for the senior housing industry

References

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