Call for Papers

2015 OU Energy Finance Research Conference

Norman, Oklahoma, September 10-11, 2015

Co-sponsored by the Review of Financial Studies

The University of Oklahoma’s Price College Energy Institute, and the Price College Center for Financial Studies are organizing the inaugural OU Energy Finance Research Conference, to be held on the OU campus in Norman, Oklahoma September 10-11, 2015. The conference is co-sponsored by the Review of Financial Studies under its dual review system.

Keynote Speaker: Kenneth Singleton (Stanford University)

Program Committee: Viral Acharya (NYU), Hendrik Bessembinder (Utah), Bernardo Bortolotti (Turin, Bocconi), Narjess Boubakri (American University of Sharjah), Ing-Haw Cheng (Dartmouth), Peter Christoffersen (Toronto), Thomas Covert (Chicago), Martijn Cremers (Notre Dame), Frans de Roon (Tilburg), Louis Ederington (Oklahoma), Benjamin Esty (Harvard), Bassam Fattouh (London, Oxford IES), Jarrad Harford (University of Washington), Erik Gilje (Wharton), David Haushalter (Penn State), Lutz Kilian (Michigan), Andrei Kirilenko (MIT), Praveen Kumar (Houston), Thomas Lee (US Energy Information Administration), Peter Mackay (HKUST), John Parsons (MIT), Anna Pavlova (LBS), Neil Pearson (Illinois), Michael Pollitt (Cambridge), Amiyatosh Purnanandam (Michigan), Michel Robe (American University), Nikolai Roussanov (Wharton), Eduardo Schwartz (UCLA), Gordon Sick (Calgary), James Smith (SMU), Chester Spatt (Carnegie-Mellon), Sheridan Titman (Texas), Anders Tolle (Swiss Finance Institute EPFL), Sergey Tsyplakov (South Carolina), Robert Whaley (Vanderbilt), Wei Xiong (Princeton), Pradeep Yadav (Oklahoma).

RFS Editorial Sponsor: Philip Strahan (Boston College)

Organizing Committee: Bill Megginson (Oklahoma), conference chair; Chitru Fernando (Oklahoma), Scott Linn (Oklahoma), and Philip Strahan (Boston College), conference co-chairs.

Paper Submissions: Electronic submissions of unpublished papers can be made beginning January 1, 2015 via the conference website: http://price.ou.edu/energyfinanceconference. The deadline for submissions is March 16, 2015, and authors will be notified by June 15, 2015. We expect the selection process to be highly selective, since only a dozen papers will be chosen.

Review of Financial Studies Combined Submission Option: At the authors’ option, papers submitted to the conference will, in addition, be considered for publication at the RFS free of charge. The rules for the dual submission process are as follows:

1. Authors must expressly indicate interest in consideration by the RFS.

2. At the discretion of the RFS Sponsoring Editor (Philip Strahan), a small number of dual submissions will be invited to submit to the RFS. The RFS will waive the fee on such submissions, and have the submission formally reviewed. In these cases, authors will receive a copy of the RFS reviewer report(s).
3. Papers submitted for dual consideration must not be under review at another journal or the RFS, nor can they be considered for dual submission if previously rejected by the RFS. Moreover, papers cannot be submitted for dual consideration if they are simultaneously under dual consideration at another journal sponsored by the Society for Financial Studies.

4. In the event that a dual submission that has been invited to submit to the RFS is subsequently rejected, its authors have the option to submit a future version of their paper to the RFS without prejudice.

5. While under consideration as a dual submission to the Energy Finance Research Conference and the RFS, a paper may not be submitted to another journal (or the RFS) until the author has been notified of the dual submission outcome.

Conference Overview. The production, distribution, and marketing of energy is, in the aggregate, the world’s largest business enterprise. Every day, the world produces and consumes 90 million barrels of petroleum, 330 billion cubic feet of natural gas, and 22 thousand tons of coal—and also generates and consumes 6 million megawatt-hours of electricity. Sales of these energy outputs generate revenues exceeding $7 trillion per year, roughly equal to 10 percent of global GDP. Additionally, energy companies account for roughly one-quarter of all corporate capital investment spending worldwide each year, and thus invest over $3 trillion annually to find, extract, refine, and generate power, dwarfing the capital investment spending of any other single industry. It is hard to imagine an industry that financial economics might find more amenable to or rewarding of analysis using existing econometric and financial analytical tools. The 2015 OU Energy Finance Research Conference will be a venue for the best energy finance research to be presented and the RFS will offer a prestigious publication outlet for the best such research.

Paper Submissions. We will solicit papers, both theoretical and empirical, on any aspect of energy finance research, including but not limited to the following topics:

Financial Markets and Investments/Asset Pricing
- The “Financialization of Oil,” Linking Commodity and Financial Markets
- Asset Pricing Links between Energy and Financial Markets
- Energy Derivatives and Pricing (includes pricing of energy/commodity futures and options)
- Energy Risk Management Techniques and Challenges
- Weather and Climate Derivatives
- Financial Engineering and Energy Finance

Corporate and International Finance
- Energy Risk Management Techniques and Challenges
- Financing Renewable and Alternative Energy Technologies
- The Financial Economics of Fracking
- Mergers & Acquisitions in the Global Energy and Mining Industries
- Capital Structure Dynamics and Payout Policies of Energy Companies
- Taxation of Energy Firms and the Rise of Master Limited Partnerships (MLPs)
- Private Equity’s Role in Energy Finance
- Partnerships and Competition between State-Owned and Private Oil Majors
- Accumulating Oil Export Earnings and the Rise of Sovereign Wealth Funds
- Privatization and Nationalization of National Oil, Gas, and Mineral Resources
- Project Finance and the Funding of Energy Infrastructure Projects

Energy Economics
- Auction Pricing Theory and Optimal Bidding in Major Oil and Gas Projects
- Taxation and Regulation of Energy Production
• The Financial Economics of Climate Change and Regulation
• Pipeline Construction and Operation Economics

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