

HANNES F. WAGNER

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PROFILE

Full Professor of Finance at Bocconi University and Visiting Faculty at the National University of Singapore. Research Member of the European Corporate Governance Institute. Long-standing collaborations with institutional investors, including Aberdeen Group and Norges Bank Investment Management. Program Director of Bocconi's MSc in Finance "Global Experience" track from 2026.

BIBLIOMETRICS

Google Scholar citations: ~6,260 | h-index: 20 | i10-index: 27 (as of Sep 2026)

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Institutional investors, shareholder engagement, corporate governance, corporate social responsibility

CURRENT APPOINTMENTS

Bocconi University (Milan, Italy)	
Full Professor of Finance	2025-present
Program Director, MSc in Finance – "Global Experience" track	2026-present
National University of Singapore, NUS Business School (Singapore)	
Visiting Faculty	2025–2026
European Corporate Governance Institute (Brussels, Belgium)	
Research Member	2018-present
IGIER – Innocenzo Gasparini Institute for Economic Research (Milan)	
Fellow	2009-present

PAST APPOINTMENTS

Bocconi University (Milan, Italy)	
Associate Professor of Finance (with tenure)	2013–2025
Assistant Professor of Finance	2007–2013
London Business School (London, UK)	
Visiting Faculty	2012
Postdoctoral Fellow	2006–2007
INSEAD (Fontainebleau, France), Visiting Faculty	2011–2012
University of Oxford (Oxford, UK), Postdoctoral Fellow	2005–2006
University of Munich (Munich, Germany)	
Research Associate (Wissenschaftlicher Assistent)	2004–2005
Research Assistant (Wissenschaftlicher Mitarbeiter)	2001–2004

EDUCATION

University of Munich (Munich School of Management), Munich, Germany	
Ph.D. in Finance (summa cum laude)	2001–2005
University of Oxford (Saïd Business School)	
Visiting Doctoral Student	2004
University of Munich (Munich School of Management)	
B.S. - 1997, M.S. – 2001 in Business Economics (top 3 percent of the class)	1996–2001
University of Rotterdam (Rotterdam School of Economics)	1998–1999
Major: Financial Economics	

RESEARCH ACTIVITY AND PUBLICATIONS

Peer-Reviewed Publications

[Controlled Firms, Preferences, and Environmental Sustainability](#), with Alexander Dyck, Karl Lins, Lukas Roth, and Mitch Towner, 2026, [Journal of Financial and Quantitative Analysis](#), forthcoming.

[The Benefits of Access: Evidence from Private Meeting with Portfolio Firms](#), with Marco Becht and Julian Franks, 2026, [Journal of Finance](#) 81, 739-789.

- WRDS Best Conference Paper Award 2019, Winner, presented at the 12th Annual Corporate Governance Conference, Philadelphia

[Renewable Governance: Good for the Environment?](#), with Alexander Dyck, Karl Lins, Lukas Roth, and Mitch Towner, 2023, [Journal of Accounting Research](#) 61, 279-327.

- Best Paper Award presented at the FMA Global Conference in Latin America 2019, Winner, Bogotá

[Family Firms and Labor Market Regulation](#), with Morten Bennesen, Sterling Huang and Stefan Zeume, 2019, [Review of Corporate Finance Studies](#) 8, 348-379.

- FFI Best Unpublished Research Honorable Mention Award 2018, Winner

[The Value of Offshore Secrets – Evidence from the Panama Papers](#), with James O'Donovan and Stefan Zeume, 2019, [Review of Financial Studies](#) 32, 4117-4155.

- Michael J. Brennan Award for Best Paper Published in the Review of Financial Studies, 2020, Runner-up
- Editor's Choice

[Do Institutional Investors Drive Corporate Social Responsibility? International Evidence](#), with Alexander Dyck, Karl Lins, Lukas Roth, 2019, [Journal of Financial Economics](#) 131, 693-714.

- Investment for Impact Research Prize 2017, Runner-up, Center for Responsible Business, Berkeley-Haas

[Do Qualifications Matter? New Evidence on Board Functions and Director Compensation](#), with Viktor Fedaseyeu and James Linck, 2018, [Journal of Corporate Finance](#) 48, 816-839.

- Southwestern Finance Association Best Paper Award in Corporate Finance 2014, Winner, Dallas

[Returns to Hedge Fund Activism: An International Study](#), with Marco Becht, Julian Franks, and Jeremy Grant, 2017, [Review of Financial Studies](#) 30, 2933-2971

- CAMRI Prize in Asset Management 2015, Winner

[Does Family Control Matter? International Evidence from the 2008-2009 Financial Crisis](#), with Karl Lins and Paolo Volpin, 2013, [Review of Financial Studies](#) 26, 2583-2619.

- S.A.C. Capital Advisors Best Conference Paper Award presented at the 39th European Finance Association Annual Meeting 2012, Winner

[The Life Cycle of Family Ownership: International Evidence](#), with Julian Franks, Colin Mayer and Paolo Volpin, 2012, [Review of Financial Studies](#) 25, 1675-1712.

[Leverage and Pricing of Debt in LBOs](#), with Paolo Colla and Filippo Ippolito, 2012, [Journal of Corporate Finance](#) 18, 124-137.

[Where do Firms Incorporate? Deregulation and the Cost of Entry](#), with Marco Becht and Colin Mayer, 2008, [Journal of Corporate Finance](#) 14, 241-256.

[The Origins of the German Corporation – Finance Ownership, and Control](#), with Julian Franks and Colin Mayer, 2006, [Review of Finance](#) 10, 537-585.

Other Academic Publications (“lightly” reviewed)

[Data Leaks and Tax Havens](#), with Stefan Zeume, 2024, in: Arjan Lejour and Dirk Schindler ed., [Research Handbook on the Economics of Tax Havens](#), Edward Elgar Publishing, 40-59.

[Reproducibility in Management Science](#), with Milos Fisar, Ben Greiner, Cristoph Huber, Elena Katok, Ali Ozkes, 2024, and the Management Science Reproducibility Collaboration, [Management Science](#) 70, 1343-2022.

[The Early Returns to International Hedge Fund Activism: 2000-2010](#), with Marco Becht, Julian Franks and Jeremy Grant, 2019, *Journal of Applied Corporate Finance* 31, 62-80.

[The Survival of the Weakest: Flourishing Family Firms in Germany](#), with Julian Franks and Colin Mayer, 2015, *Journal of Applied Corporate Finance* 27, 27-35.

Deregulation and Corporate Mobility in Europe, with Marco Becht and Colin Mayer, 2009, in: Klaus Schaefer, et al ed., *Risikomanagement und kapitalmarktorientierte Finanzierung*, Knapp Frankfurt, 151-161.

Risikomanagement und kapitalmarktorientierte Finanzierung: Festschrift zum 65. Geburtstag von Bernd Rudolph editor, with Klaus Schaefer, Hans-Peter Burghof, Lutz Johanning, and Sabine Rodt, 2009, Knapp Frankfurt.

Working Papers

Activist-Induced Turnover, with Selen Eski and Yekta Yazdanifard.

— Activist hedge fund campaigns reshape board composition.

Before the Vote is Cast: Investor–Firm Engagement Around Shareholder Meetings, with Marco Becht and Julian Franks.

— Uses proprietary data covering ~2,300 private meetings with portfolio firms to study how institutional investors engage with portfolio firms before voting.

Data Leaks and Secret Offshore Vehicles: Offshore Whack-A-Mole or Deterrence?, with Stefan Zeume.

— Follow-up to the Panama Papers study; examines whether data leaks deter offshore activity or simply displace it.

AWARDS AND PRIZES

Major Research Awards

Runner-up, Michael J. Brennan Award for Best Paper Published in The Review of Financial Studies, Society of Financial Studies, 2020

Winner, WRDS Best Conference Paper Award, 12th Annual Corporate Governance Conference, Drexel University, 2019

Winner, Best Paper Award, FMA Global Conference in Latin America, Bogotá, 2019

Winner, Asia Asset Management-CAMRI Prize in Asset Management, 2015

Winner, Best Paper in Corporate Finance Award, Southwestern Finance Association, 2014

Winner, Best Conference Paper, S.A.C. Capital Advisors, European Finance Association, 2012

Paper Honors and Nominations

Shortlisted, Bocconi Research Impact Award, Bocconi University, 2025

Winner, Family Firm Institute Best Unpublished Research Honorable Mention Award, 2018

Runner-up, Investment for Impact Research Prize, Center for Responsible Business, Berkeley-Haas, 2017

Candidate for 4Nations Cup, 2015 (“candidates in the tournament are the most promising young [...] scholars in financial economics affiliated with universities domiciled in the participating nations”)

Shortlisted for Reinhard Selten Young Author Best Paper Award, Verein fuer Socialpolitik, 2007

Special recognition for Paul Julius Reuter Innovation Award, Reuters Foundation, 2006

Institutional Awards

Excellence in Research Award, Bocconi University (7 times, most recently 2025)

Winner, Bocconi Research Award: Teaching Reduction, 2018, 2019, 2025

Outstanding Dissertation Award, Alumni Association University of Munich, 2005

RESEARCH GRANTS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

Grant from Italian Ministry of Education, Projects of National Interest, National Recovery and Resilience Plan (PRIN 2022 PNRR) program for 2 years, jointly awarded with Monica Billio (EUR 226,000), 2022

Grant from Bocconi University, Senior Researcher Grant for “Shareholder Activism”, 2019.

Grant from Italian Ministry of Education, Projects of National Interest (PRIN) program for 3 years, jointly awarded with Marco Pagano, Fabiano Schivardi, Julien Sauvagnat (EUR 160,000), 2019.

Grant from Norges Bank Investment Management under the Norwegian Finance Initiative (NFI) Research Programme for 3 years, jointly awarded with Julian Franks and Marco Becht (GBP 125,000), 2016.

Grant from Italian Ministry of Education, Projects of National Interest (PRIN) program for 3 years, jointly awarded with Marco Pagano, Fabiano Schivardi, Pietro Garibaldi (EUR 230,000), 2016.

Grant from the Carefin Centre for Applied Research in Finance for “Does Family Control Matter?”, 2013

Grant from SDA Bocconi Research Division for “Financial Distress and Ownership Structures”, 2009

Grant from the Carefin Centre for Applied Research in Finance for “Leverage in Buyouts”, 2008

Postdoctoral grant from Fritz Thyssen Foundation, 2006-2007

Young Researcher Grant from Verein fuer Socialpolitik, 2005

Postdoctoral grant sponsored by the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research, 2005-2006

Doctoral student grant from the German Academic Exchange Service, 2004

International Conference Grant from the German Finance Association (DGF), 2004, 2006

International Conference Grant from the German Research Foundation (DFG), 2004

Graduate Scholarship, German Academic Scholarship Foundation (Studienstiftung des Deutschen Volkes), 1999-2001 (awarded to ~¼ percent of students, main instrument to recognize and support elite students in Germany)

Undergraduate Scholarship funded by the European Community Erasmus Programme, 1998-1999

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

Editorial Positions

Associate Editor, Economics Letters	2021-present
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Refereeing

Top-5 economics and finance journals: Quarterly Journal of Economics, American Economic Review, Journal of Finance, Journal of Financial Economics, Review of Financial Studies.

Additional journals: Review of Corporate Finance Studies, Journal of Financial and Quantitative Analysis, Review of Finance, Management Science, Journal of Accounting Research, The Accounting Review, Journal of Management Studies, Financial Analysts’ Journal, Economics Letters, Journal of Corporate Finance, Journal of Banking and Finance, National Tax Journal, European Financial Management, Journal of Law, Finance, and Accounting, Journal of Economic History, Financial Review, European Journal of Finance, Kredit und Kapital, ZFBF

Conference Organization

Local Committee, European Finance Association Conference Annual Meeting, Bocconi University, Milan	2021
Co-organizer, Institutional Investor Activism and Engagement Conference, Bar Ilan University	2017

Program Committees

SFS Cavalcade North America	2022-present
European Finance Association (Conference and Doctoral Tutorial)	2014-present
Financial Management Association (Track Chair 2022)	2015-present
Northern Finance Association	2016-present

Institutional Leadership and Service

Member, Bocconi Digital Transformation & AI (DiTAI) Committee	2024–present
Co-lead, Finance Department website and news communications, Bocconi University	2024–present
Executive Producer, TEDx BocconiU, Milan	2018–2021

Invited Conferences, Seminars, and Discussions

Recent (2021–present)

2026	4 th HKU Summer Finance Conference; 19 th Annual Corporate Governance Academic Conference, Drexel University*; European Finance Association (discussant, 2 papers), Indian School of Business Hyderabad; Finance Brownbag Seminar, NUS; SGFIN Conference on Sustainability, NUS (discussant); Asia Pacific Corporate Finance Workshop, NUS (discussant)
2025	ESSEC Business School; Family Business and Long-Term Investment Conference Dauphine/PSL – Paris; Journal of Corporate Finance Special Issue Conference, Milan (discussant)
2024	Lancaster University; 2nd BFFI – ECGI Family Business Conference, Vilnius*; 3rd Conference in Sustainable Finance, University of Luxembourg (discussant)
2023	Amsterdam Business School; NBIM-Oxford Conference on Common Ownership, University of Oxford (discussant); BI Conference on Corporate Governance, BI Norwegian Business School (discussant); University of Hamburg; Private Markets Conference, EPFL Lausanne (discussant)
2022	Responsible Capitalism ECGI, Milan (discussant); LSE-UCL Law & Finance Seminar (discussant); Frankfurt School of Finance (discussant)
2021	CICF, Shanghai; European Finance Association, Milan (discussant); IESEG

Selected Earlier Presentations (2005–2020)

American Finance Association: 2006, 2009, 2014, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020

European Finance Association: 2005, 2008, 2009, 2012, 2014, 2017, 2021

Western Finance Association: 2015

FIRS: 2009, 2016, 2017, 2020

Institutions visited include: LBS, LSE, Oxford, INSEAD, HKUST, Frankfurt, Zurich, Warwick, TU Munich, Tilburg, Rotterdam, Utrecht, Geneva, Exeter, Bristol, Amsterdam, Hamburg, Luxembourg, HEC Montreal, Alberta, Brandeis, IESE, NHH Bergen, Schulich/York, Judge/Cambridge, Cass, SUNY, and others.

* coauthor presented. Full detailed list available on request.

TEACHING AWARDS

Exceptional Teaching Evaluations Award, MBA Programmes Office, NUS Business School, National University of Singapore,	2026
Winner, 2022–2023 Teaching Award, Graduate School, Bocconi University	2024
Winner, 2019–2020 Teaching Award, Bocconi University	2020
Winner, Annual Award for Innovation in Teaching, Bocconi	2017
Winner, Annual Award for Innovation in Teaching, Bocconi	2016
Winner, Teaching Excellence Prize, Bocconi University	2014
Winner, Teaching Excellence Prize, Bocconi University	2012
Winner, Teaching Excellence Prize, Bocconi University	2011
Winner, Teaching Excellence Prize, Bocconi University	2010

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

National University of Singapore – NUS Business School	
MBA – BMA5008 Financial Management Core MBA finance course	2025

Bocconi University

BSc in Finance and Economics – Corporate Finance	2007–today
Large multi-section undergraduate course (~1,200 students).	
MBA (SDA Bocconi) – Personal Finance: Managing Your Wealth	2019–today
MBA (SDA Bocconi) – Understanding Investments	2015–2020
MSc in Finance – Sustainable Finance	2023–today
MSc in Transformative Sustainability – Sustainable Finance and ESG Investing	2022–today
PhD – Empirical Corporate Finance	2007–2017
World Bachelor in Business (with USC and HKUST) – Corporate Finance	2015–2016
MSc – Corporate Finance Elective	2007
Visiting and External Teaching	
Norges Bank Investment Management Summer School, Oslo – NFI	2019
Rotterdam School of Management – Corporate Finance	2016–2019
Duisenberg School of Finance, Amsterdam – Corporate Finance	2014
University of Oxford – Corporate Finance (U.S. OPUS Program)	2005
University of Munich – MSc Corporate Finance	2001–2003
University of Munich – BSc Finance and Investments	2003–2004
Erlangen-Nuremberg & TU Munich – Math & Finance Summer School	2001
PhD Supervision and Examination	
PhD Supervisor, Bocconi University, Selen Eski, in progress	
PhD Supervisor, Bocconi University, Yekta Yazdanifard, graduated 2025; now: CIBC	
External PhD Examiner, London Business School (LBS), Harshini Shanker, 2026	
External PhD Examiner, Maximilian Bader, Technical University Munich (TUM), 2014	
INDUSTRY AND EARLY CAREER EXPERIENCE	
McKinsey & Company, Summer Fellow, Munich	1999
U.S. Department of Commerce, Intern, Frankfurt	1998
University of Munich, Research Assistant, Munich	1997–2001
PERSONAL	
Languages:	English and German (fluent), Italian (fluent), French and Portuguese (working)
Sports:	Rowing; marathons (Milan, Munich, Venice)