

DIVIJ KOHLI

Champaign, Illinois, USA
+1 (447) 902 0332 ◊ divijk2@illinois.edu ◊ divijkohli.info

EDUCATION

Ph.D. Finance <i>Gies College of Business, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign</i>	Expected: May 2027 USA
M.Sc. Applied Quantitative Finance <i>Madras School of Economics</i>	2015 - 2017 India
B.Sc. (Hons.) Mathematics <i>University of Delhi</i>	2011 - 2014 India

REFERENCES

Professor Julia Fonseca
Associate Professor of Finance, Gies College of Business
juliaf@illinois.edu

Professor Julian Rief
Associate Professor, Gies College of Business
jrief@illinois.edu

RESEARCH INTEREST

Household Finance, Financial Inclusion, Banking

WORKING PAPERS

The Effects of Deleting Medical Debt from Consumer Credit Reports NBER WP
with Victor Duarte, Julia Fonseca, and Julian Reif

One in seven Americans carry medical debt, with \$88 billion reported on consumer credit reports. In April 2023, the three major credit bureaus stopped reporting medical debts below \$500. We study the effects of this information deletion on consumer credit scores, credit limits and utilization, repayment behavior, and payday borrowing. Using a machine learning model, we show that small medical debts are not meaningfully predictive of defaults, suggesting their deletion should have minimal effect on lending decisions. We test this prediction using two complementary research designs. First, a regression discontinuity analysis comparing individuals above and below the \$500 threshold finds no direct benefits from the information deletion, ruling out small changes in credit access. Second, to assess indirect effects, we classify consumers based on whether their predicted default probability increases or decreases when debts are deleted. A difference-in-differences analysis comparing these groups before and after the 2023 policy change reveals no evidence of negative spillover effects. Finally, we show that larger medical debts ($\geq \$500$) are also not meaningfully predictive of default, suggesting that eliminating medical debts entirely from credit reports, as planned under a January 2025 decision by the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, is unlikely to affect credit outcomes.

Presentations (by co-author): University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign Brown Bag (2024), Georgetown McDonough* (2025), Brazilian Finance Society* (2025)*

House of Stolen Cards: Does Payment Security Improve Credit Outcomes for Households?

SSRN WP

with Justin Mohr

Credit card fraud is the most common type of identity fraud in the U.S. with a cost of over \$11.64 billion. In 2014, the U.S. government pushed for widespread adoption of more secure chip-enabled credit cards to safeguard consumers from financial fraud and improve confidence in the marketplace. We study the effects of this technological innovation in payment security on household credit outcomes. Using a matched sample staggered difference-in-differences event study, we show that before this intervention fraud exposed consumers faced decline in access to credit. Post this innovation, consumers see greater credit availability. We then examine consumer behavior associated with exposure to fraud and find that consumers reduce their credit demand and face increased financial distress. These findings do not change following the innovation. Heterogeneity analysis shows that low credit score households are more likely to have higher decline in credit demand and increased financial distress. Our findings suggest that persistent consumer distrust underscores the need for further policy innovations, such as one-time passcodes for credit card transactions and sufficient financial education to consumers.

Presentations (by co-author): University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign Brown Bag (2024), FMA* (2024), Boulder Summer Conference Poster Session (2025) (scheduled)*

WORK IN PROGRESS

The Other Half: Monetary Policy Transmission for Households without Mortgages

with Justin Mohr and Yucheng Zhou

0.1cm *Presentation: Financial Management Association Early Ideas (2024)*

Household's Early Access to Credit: Good or Bad?

TEACHING AND RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Teaching Assistant

Spring 2025

Corporate Finance (Undergraduate Course) by James Mendelson, UIUC

Teaching Assistant

Fall 2024

Corporate Finance (Undergraduate Course) by James Mendelson, UIUC

Included on the "List of Instructors Rated Excellent by Their Students"

Research Assistant

2023 - 2024

For Prof. Can Huang

Research Assistant

2022 - 2023

For Prof. Jaewon Choi

SERVICES

Program Committee

2024

Southern Finance Association 2024 Annual Meeting

Organizer, Finance Ph.D. Student Seminar Series

Aug 2024- Present

University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

Organizer, Finance Reading Group

Aug 2023- Present

University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

President, Indian Graduate Students Association

May 2023- Present

University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

HONORS & FELLOWSHIPS

Included on the “List of Instructors Rated Excellent by Their Students”	Fall 2024
Zwisler Fellowship <i>Fellowship for academic achievements</i>	2024
Outstanding Asian and Asian American Graduate Student Leader <i>Asian American Cultural Center, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign</i>	2024
Lakonishok Doctoral Fellowship <i>University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign</i>	2022 - Present
Monteith Technology Award <i>University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign</i>	2022
Madras School of Economics’ Fellowship <i>Fellowship for academic excellence</i>	2016
Madras School of Economics’ Fellowship <i>Fellowship for academic excellence</i>	2015

INDUSTRY EXPERIENCE & PROFESSIONAL COURSES

Assistant Vice President <i>Barclays Bank</i>	Nov 2019 - July 2022 <i>India</i>
Associate Consultant <i>Mckinsey & Company</i>	June 2019 - Nov 2019 <i>India</i>
Financial Risk Consultant <i>Ernst & Young</i>	July 2017 - May 2019 <i>India</i>
Certified Financial Risk Manager <i>Global Association of Risk Professionals</i>	2017 - 2019
Actuarial Science Examinations <i>IFOA & IAI: CT-1, CT-3, CT-4, CT-5, CT-6, CT-7, CT-9</i>	2012 - 2017

TECHNICAL STRENGTHS

Programming Languages	STATA, SQL, Python
Tools	Latex, Tableau

PERSONAL INFORMATION

Nationality	Indian
Languages	Hindi (Native), English (Bilingual Proficiency), Punjabi (Spoken)