Shaun William Davies

Contact Information

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Education

Ph.D., Finance, Anderson Graduate School of Management, University of California at Los Angeles, 2013.

M.A., Economics, University of California at Los Angeles, 2010.

B.S., Applied Mathematics, University of Colorado Boulder, 2005.

B.A., Economics, University of Colorado Boulder, 2005.

Certificate in the Practice and Study of Leadership, University of Colorado Boulder, 2005.

Professional Designations

Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA) Charterholder, 2012 - Present.

Employment

Associate Professor of Finance with Tenure, Leeds School of Business, University of Colorado Boulder, 2021 - Present.

Faculty Director of the Burridge Center for Finance, Leeds School of Business, University of Colorado Boulder, 2024 - Present.

Quinby Family Finance Endowed Faculty Fellowship, Leeds School of Business, University of Colorado Boulder, 2023 - Present.

Research Director of the Burridge Center for Finance, Leeds School of Business, University of Colorado Boulder, 2021 - 2024.

Assistant Professor of Finance, Leeds School of Business, University of Colorado Boulder, 2013 - 2021.

Academic and Professional Service

Four Corners Center for Research on Index Investments (Four Corners)
Co-Founder (2021).
Inaugural President (2021 - 2023), Treasurer (2023 - 2024), Board of Directors (2021 - 2024).

The Journal of Fixed Income (JFI)
Associate Editor (2024 - Present).

Refereed Journal Articles

1. "Competition, Comparative Performance, and Market Transparency" (with Bruce I. Carlin and Andrew Iannaccone), **American Economic Journal: Microeconomics** 4: 202-237, 2012.

2. "Moral Hazard in Active Asset Management" (with David C. Brown), **Journal of Financial Economics** 125: 311-325, 2017.

3. "The Unintended Consequences of Divestment" (with Edward D. Van Wesep), **Journal of Financial Economics** 128: 558-575, 2018.

4. "Investing for Impact" (with Bhagwan Chowdhry and Brian Waters), **Review of Financial Studies** 32: 864-904, 2019.

5. "Financial Advice and Discretion Limits", **Financial Planning Review** 3: 1-34, 2020.

6. "Financing Efficiency of Securities-Based Crowdfunding" (with David C. Brown), **Review of Financial Studies** 33: 3975-4023, 2020.
   Included in the *Finance Theory Insights* inaugural issue, Issue 1, September 2021.

7. "ETF Arbitrage, Non-Fundamental Demand, and Return Predictability" (with David C. Brown and Matthew Ringgenberg), **Review of Finance** 25: 937–972, 2021.
   Lead Article.
   Runner-up for the *2022 Spängler/IQAM Award* for the best investments paper in the *Review of Finance*.

8. "Speculation Sentiment", **Journal of Financial and Quantitative Analysis** 57: 2485-2515, 2022.
   Lead Article.

9. "Investor Demand for Leverage: Evidence from Equity Closed-End Funds" (with Robert Dam and S. Katie Moon), **Review of Asset Pricing Studies** 14: 1-39, 2024.
   Lead Article.

10. "On the Magnification of Small Biases in Hiring" (with Edward D. Van Wesep and Brian Waters), **Journal of Finance** 79: 3623-3673, 2024.
    ASU Sonoran Winter Finance Conference 2020's Jacob Gold & Associates Best Paper Prize Winner
    Included in the *Finance Theory Insights*, Issue 5, September 2024.

Working Papers

1. "Off Target: On the Underperformance of Target-Date Funds" (with David C. Brown).

2. "Portfolio Trading, Uniform Portfolio Constraints, and Systematic Risk".

3. "Target-Date Fund Glide Paths: Do Active Bets Enhance Retirement Outcomes?" (with David C. Brown and Austin Sobotka).

4. "A Review: The Financial Impact for Socially Responsible Investors".

5. "Individual Traders and the Allocation of Scarce Attention".

6. "The Implementation of State Sponsored Retirement Plans" (with Bruce I. Carlin).

Work in Progress

1. "Greenium in Debt Markets" (with Ryan C. Lewis and Brian Waters).

Other Publications and Case Studies

1. *Entrepreneurial Finance*, 8^{th} Edition (with J. Chris Leach and Ronald W. Melicher), 2027 copyright, Cengage Learning – South-Western.

2. "TermScout", *Entrepreneurial Finance*, University of Colorado Boulder, Leeds School of Business. 2027 copyright.

Conferences, Presentations, Discussions
(* **coauthor,** † **discussion,** • **session chair,** ◇ **canceled due to COVID-19**)

2026: University of Kentucky, Finance Down Under†, SFS Cavalcade North America 2026†.

2025: Chapman University, Investment Company Institute 2025 Research Summer Workshop on Regulated Funds and Retail-Oriented Investment Products*, 8th Annual J.P. Morgan Center International Commodities Research Symposium†.

2024: University of Missouri, 2024 University of Delaware/ECGI Corporate Governance Symposium†, 25th Edition Texas Finance Festival†, SFS Cavalcade North America 2024†, Financial Intermediation Research Society (FIRS) Conference, 12th Helsinki Finance Summit on Investor Behavior, University of Texas Dallas, Brigham Young University.

2023: Vanguard Investment Strategy Group, Four Corners Spring 2023 Meeting, The 18th Annual Conference in Financial Economics Research by Eagle Labs, Financial Intermediation Research Society (FIRS) Conference†,•, 17th International Conference sponsored by Finance UC at Pontificia Universidad Catolica de Chile, Western Finance Association•, University of Amsterdam, United Nations Principles of Responsible Investment Conference 2023†, 2023 FMA Annual Meeting†, Ivey Business School at the University of Western Ontario, Chapman University's Finance Conference.

2022: American Finance Association†, 5^{th} World Symposium on Investment Research, University of Washington 5^{th} Summer Finance Conference, European Finance Association, Boston College, 2022 FMA Annual Meeting†, Universidad de los Andes, Chile.

2021: American Finance Association†, ASU Sonoran Winter Finance Conference 2021†, Midwest Finance Association†, Clemson University, 2021 Colorado/Texas Idea Conference, Financial Intermediation Research Society (FIRS) Conference†, United Nations Principles of Responsible Investment Conference 2021†, Villanova University, 2021 FMA Annual Meeting•, 2021 Virtual Academic Research Colloquium for Financial Planning and Related Disciplines*, INQUIRE Residential Seminar 2021, Chapman Conference on the Experimental and Behavioral Aspects of Financial Markets†, Paris December 2021 Finance Meeting.

2020: American Finance Association*, ASU Sonoran Winter Finance Conference 2020*, University of Utah, Chicago Financial Institutions Conference◇, Chapman University, SFS Cavalcade North America 2020, Midwest Finance Association†.

2019: American Finance Association, University of Arizona, Chicago Financial Institutions Conference†, 20th Meeting of the Finance Theory Group*, 2019 Front Range Finance Seminar, UCLA Anderson Finance Conference (In Honor of Bhagwan Chowdhry), Financial Intermediation Research Society (FIRS) Conference, Mutual Funds, Hedge Funds and Factor Investing Conference, 2019 China International Conference in Finance (CICF), 2019 J.P. Morgan Center for Commodities Symposium†, 2019 University of Denver Regional Summer Finance Conference*, 2019 Labor and Finance Group Conference*, 2019 Northern Finance Association*, University of California at San Diego.

2018: American Finance Association*, Arizona State University, Carnegie Mellon University, Chicago Financial Institutions Conference†, 1^{st} World Symposium on Investment Research, Financial Intermediation Research Society (FIRS) Conference†, 8th Helsinki Finance Summit on Investor Behavior, European Finance Association†, United Nations Principles of Responsible Investment Conference 2018†, Cornell University, Baylor University, The Banque de France and Toulouse School of Economics Conference on Digital Finance, 13th Imperial Conference on Advances in the Analysis of Hedge Fund Strategies, Financial Research Association Conference (Early Ideas Session).

2017: European Winter Finance Conference 2017*, University of Arizona, ASU Sonoran Winter Finance Conference 2017, Cubist Systematic Strategies*, Midwest Finance Association*, Chicago Financial Institutions Conference, FSU SunTrust Beach Conference*, 2017 Front Range Finance Seminar, University of Oregon Summer Finance Conference, 2017 Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia FinTech Conference*, Toronto FinTech Conference*, University of Virginia, UNC Chapel Hill Junior Finance Roundtable†.

2016: ASU Sonoran Winter Finance Conference 2016†, 3rd Geneva Summit on Sustainable Finance, Research Affiliates, Boulder Summer Conference on Consumer Financial Decision Making, ITAM Finance Conference*, Financial Intermediation Research Society (FIRS) Conference†, Western Finance Association†, The Social Enterprise Initiative at The University of Chicago Booth School of Business and the Marshall Institute for Philanthropy and Social Entrepreneurship at the London School of Economics conference on the Economics of Social Sector Organizations*.

2015: Finance Down Under, Midwest Finance Association*, UBC Summer Finance Conference, 2015 DePaul University Conference in Corporate Social Responsibility, 13^{th} Paris December Finance Meeting*, Colorado Finance Summit, Southern Methodist University.

2014: Research in Behavioural Finance Conference, HKUST Conference on the Impact of Responsible and Sustainable Investing*, Emerging Markets Finance Conference 2014*.

2013: University of Rochester, University of Colorado, University of British Columbia, Arizona State University, Columbia University, Vanderbilt University, University of Iowa.

2012: American Finance Association*, Western Finance Association.

2010: California Corporate Finance Conference.

Awards and Honors

1. Leeds MBA Teaching Excellence Award for a Core Course 2026.
2. 2026 Finance Down Under's Best Discussant Prize Winner.
3. 2025 J.P. Morgan Center for Commodities & Energy Management Research Symposium's Best Discussant Prize Winner.
4. Balkin Innovation Award Finalist 2023 - 2024.
5. Faculty Fellow, Daniels Fund Ethics Initiative Collegiate Program, Academic Year 2022 - 2023.
6. Steven Lindstrom Pardo Memorial Lecturer, Leeds School of Business, Academic Year 2021 - 2022.
7. ASU Sonoran Winter Finance Conference 2021's Jacob Gold & Associates Best Discussant Prize Winner.
8. Recipient, Joseph L. Frascona Teaching Excellence Award, 2020.
9. ASU Sonoran Winter Finance Conference 2020's Jacob Gold & Associates Best Paper Prize Winner.
10. Finalist, Best Finance Ph.D. Dissertation Award, Olin Business School and Wells Fargo Advisors Center for Finance & Accounting Research, 2012.
11. UCLA Dissertation Year Fellowship, 2012.
12. AFA Doctoral Student Travel Grant Recipient, 2011.
13. UCLA Anderson Fellowship, 2008.

14. Boettcher Scholarship, 2001.
15. Presidents Leadership Class / El Pomar Scholar, 2001.

Professional Organizational Activities

1. Member of *Finance Theory Group*, *Four Corners Center for Research on Index Investments*, *American Finance Association*, *Western Finance Association*, *American Economic Association*, *European Finance Association*.
2. President of Advanced Degree Programs, Anderson Student Association, University of California at Los Angeles, Anderson Graduate School of Management, Spring 2011 - Spring 2012.

Journal Referee

1. **Finance:** *Journal of Finance, Review of Financial Studies, Journal of Financial Economics, Journal of Financial and Quantitative Analysis, Review of Finance, Management Science, Review of Asset Pricing Studies, Critical Finance Review, Journal of Empirical Finance, European Journal of Finance, Journal of Financial Markets, Journal of Banking and Finance, Risk and Financial Management, Financial Planning Review, Financial Management.*
2. **Economics:** *American Economic Review, Journal of Economic Theory, Journal of Public Economics, Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization, International Journal of Industrial Organization, Applied Economics.*

Miscellaneous Other Writing and Media

1. "So You Want to Invest to Make Impact?" (with Bhagwan Chowdhry), **Stanford Social Innovation Review**, November 21, 2014.
2. "How Innovation in Financial Security Design May Boost Impact Investing in 2015" (with Bhagwan Chowdhry), **Economic Times**, January 9, 2015.
3. "Investing for Impact" (with Bhagwan Chowdhry and Brian Waters), **Harvard Law School Forum on Corporate Governance and Financial Regulation**, July 12, 2018.

Teaching Experience

University of Colorado Boulder, Leeds School of Business

Derivative Securities, Undergraduate, Spring 2017, Spring 2018, Spring 2019, Fall 2019, Fall 2020, Spring 2022, Spring 2023, Spring 2024, Spring 2025, Spring 2026.

Business Finance, Executive MBA, Spring 2022, Spring 2023, Spring 2024, Spring 2025, Spring 2026.

Corporate Finance, MBA, Spring 2022, Spring 2025, Spring 2026.

Entrepreneurial Finance, MBA, Spring 2015, Spring 2016, Spring 2017, Fall 2021.

Entrepreneurial Finance, Undergraduate, Fall 2013, Fall 2014, Spring 2016.

Finance and Ethics Workshop, Spring 2023.

Business Finance, Executive Education, Summer 2018, Fall 2023, Spring 2024.

Entrepreneurial Finance, Executive Education, Summer 2014.

Service and Committees

Faculty Committee Service

1. Leeds Executive Committee, 2016 - 2018, 2020 - 2023, 2024 - Present.
   Co-Chair 2021 - 2023.
   Co-Chair 2025 - Present.

2. Finance Faculty Recruiting Committee, 2013 - 2025.
3. Leeds Finance Division Executive Committee, 2021 - 2022, 2024 - Present.
4. Boulder Faculty Assembly (BFA), Leeds School Representative, 2024 - Present.
   Campus Operations & Resources Committee, 2024 - Present.
5. Leeds Faculty & Staff Culture Committee (FSCC), 2023 - Present.
6. Boulder Faculty Assembly (BFA), Executive Committee, Leeds School Representative (Ex Officio), 2021 - 2023, 2025 - Present.
7. Ph.D. Program Director, Finance Division, 2021 – 2022.
8. Chair, Frascona Teaching Excellence Award Committee, 2021.
9. Leeds Professional Effectiveness Division, Primary Unit, 2020 - 2021.
10. Leeds Teaching Quality Framework (TQF) Task Force, 2018 - 2019.
11. Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program (UROP) Advisory Board, 2016 - 2020.
12. Boulder Summer Conference on Consumer Financial Decision Making Program Committee, 2016 - 2020.
13. Colorado Finance Summit Organizing Committee, 2015 - 2020.
14. Finance Seminar Coordinator, 2014 - 2015, 2020 - 2021.
15. Finance Ph.D. Program Committee, 2013 - 2017.

Ph.D. Dissertation Committee Service

1. Michael Manser, Finance, 2015.
2. Tianxiao Zheng, Economics, 2016.
3. Khaled Alsabah, Finance, 2020.

Undergraduate Honors Thesis Committee Service

1. Abigail Rhodes (*summa cum laude*), Economics, 2026.

Undergraduate and Graduate Student Service

1. Faculty Mentor, Diverse Scholars Program (formerly "EXCEL Scholars"), 2018 - Present.
2. Faculty Adviser, CFA Institute Research Challenge, 2015 - 2016.

Field of Finance Service

1. 2022 Northern Finance Association (NFA) Associate Program Chair, 2022.

Professional Experience

1. Co-Founder/Vice-President & CFO, Charlie's Guys (charliesguys.org), Non-profit organization aimed at bereaved siblings, Boulder, Colorado, 2018 - Present.
2. Co-Founder and Consultant, Glidepath Financial (glidepathfinancial.com), Independent firm focused on target-date fund analytics to bring greater transparency to the market, Denver, Colorado, 2022 - Present.
3. Board of Trustees, Colorado Veterans Support, Inc. (patriotsday.org), Non-profit organization aimed at supporting veterans at the University of Colorado, Boulder, Colorado, 2021 - Present.
4. Board of Directors & President (2023) & Vice President (2022), Boulder Country Club (bouldercc.org), Country club offering golf, tennis, aquatics and social programming, Boulder, Colorado, 2021 - 2024.
5. Board of Advocates, Presidents Leadership Class (PLC), PLC is an interdisciplinary, 4-year leadership program that offers an immersive approach to leadership development at the University of Colorado, Boulder, Colorado, 2024 - Present.

6. Advisory Board, WealthFluent (wealthfluent.com), AI-powered platform offering personalized, holistic financial decision support – empowering individuals to plan lifetime goals, manage portfolios, and adapt to changing markets, Denver, Colorado, 2024 - Present.
7. Research Analyst, Smith Breeden Associates, Inc., Chapel Hill, North Carolina, 2005 - 2008.

Additional Presentations and Invited Panels

1. Leeds School of Business PFP & Wealth Management Luncheon, Boulder, Colorado, 2023.
2. Debating Divestment - How Can Investment Strategy Advance Decarbonization?, Boulder, Colorado, 2023.
3. 75th Anniversary Boettcher Scholar Summit, Denver, Colorado, 2013.

Last Updated: June 25, 2026