

Financial technologies (fintech) for financial inclusion

11th February – 15th February 2019

Large Lecture Theatre, The National School of Statistics and Applied Economics in Abidjan (ENSEA)

Cocody Avenue des Grandes Ecoles, Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire



The National School of Statistics and Applied Economics in Abidjan (ENSEA) and the Centre for Global Finance at SOAS University of London (CGF) are collaborating to deliver intensive research training to support the PhD programme at ENSEA and, effectively, research training to participants from many countries in Africa. Workshops and group work between participants and resource persons focus on sharpening the essential research skills in finance theory and financial econometrics. In order to wrap up the programme, we pay attention to the question of producing publishable research, for example how to structure a full doctoral thesis or an article for publication in a peer-reviewed journal.

The workshops cover the new research frontiers in economics and finance, such as financial technologies (fintech), inclusive finance, sustainable economic development as stated in the UN sustainable development goals. But, it should also be acknowledged that the field of finance still features a number of unresolved puzzles, which need to be carefully researched – these include empirical work on capital structure, the dividend policy puzzle, the relationship between corporate investment and uncertainty. But, the big elephant in the room is: Corporate finance in Africa - how does fintech address access to finance by small and medium enterprises?

Please join us and participate in this stimulating seminar. A sandwich lunch will be served.

The research output used in these workshops is part from ongoing work, which is sponsored by grants from DFID and ESRC [ESRC Ref: ES/N013344/2], ESRC and NSFC [ESRC Ref: ES/P005241/1] and AXA Research Fund.

Agenda

Monday, 11 February, 2019 (Day 1):

Workshop on ‘financial technologies (fintech) for financial inclusion’

- 9:00 Registration and Coffee/Tea
- 9:30 Welcome by Professor Issouf Soumaré, ENSEA and Laval University
- 10:00 Official Opening by the Director of ENSEA, Professor Hugues Kouassi Kouadio
- 10:30 Refreshments and networking
- 11:00 Professor Victor Murinde, AXA Professor in Global Finance & Director, Centre for Global Finance:
Ongoing research at SOAS Centre for Global Finance and DFID-ESRC Research Project on ‘Inclusive Finance’
- 13:00 Lunch Break
- 14:00 Professor Victor Murinde, AXA Professor in Global Finance & Director, Centre for Global Finance:
Financial technologies paving a bright new path for the world’s unbanked population (Joris J.A. Wolbers, Robert Lensink, and Victor Murinde)
- 16:00 Closing remarks by Professor Issouf Soumaré

Tuesday, 12 February, 2019 (Day 2):

Workshop on ‘Mega Trends in Global Finance’

- 9:00 Registration and Coffee/Tea
- 9:30 Welcome by Professor Issouf Soumaré, ENSEA and Laval University
- 10:00 Professor Victor Murinde, AXA Professor in Global Finance & Director, Centre for Global Finance:
Mega Trends in Global Finance
- 13:00 Lunch Break
- 14:00 Group work assigned to participants by Professor Victor Murinde
- 16:00 Closing remarks by Professor Issouf Soumaré

Wednesday, 13 February, 2019 (Day 3):

Workshop on ‘Essentials of Financial Modelling and Forecasting Techniques’

- 9:00 Registration and Coffee/Tea
- 9.30 Welcome by Professor Issouf Soumaré, ENSEA and Laval University
- 10.00 Professor Victor Murinde, AXA Professor in Global Finance & Director, Centre for Global Finance:
Financial Modelling and Forecasting Techniques
- 13:00 Lunch Break
- 14.00 Group work assigned to participants by Professor Victor Murinde
- 16:00 Closing remarks by Professor Issouf Soumaré

Thursday, 14 February, 2019 (Day 4):
Workshop on ‘The Capital Structure Puzzle’

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| 9:00 | Registration and Coffee/Tea |
| 9.30 | Welcome by Professor Issouf Soumaré, ENSEA and Laval University |
| 10.00 | Professor Victor Murinde, AXA Professor in Global Finance & Director, Centre for Global Finance:
<i>The capital structure puzzle</i> |
| 13:00 | Lunch Break |
| 14.00 | Group work assigned to participants by Professor Victor Murinde |
| 16:00 | Closing remarks by Professor Issouf Soumaré |

Friday, 15 February, 2019 (Day 5):
Workshop on ‘The Dividend Policy Puzzle’

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| 9:00 | Registration and Coffee/Tea |
| 9.30 | Welcome by Professor Issouf Soumaré, ENSEA and Laval University |
| 10.00 | Professor Victor Murinde, AXA Professor in Global Finance & Director, Centre for Global Finance:
<i>The dividend policy puzzle</i> |
| 13:00 | Lunch Break |
| 14.00 | Group work assigned to participants by Professor Victor Murinde |
| 16:00 | Closing remarks by Professor Issouf Soumaré |

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For more information about this programme, please contact Gakpa Lewis: gakpalewis@ensea.ed.ci

