

# LAURENT BARRAS

Associate Professor – McGill University, Desautels Faculty of Management

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## Past and Current Affiliations

Since 2020	Director of the Desmarais Global Finance Research Center
2018-2020	Area Coordinator, Finance Area, McGill University, Canada
Since 2016	Associate Professor, McGill University, Canada
2016-2017	Visiting Researcher, HKUST, Hong Kong, China
2009-2015	Assistant Professor, McGill University, Canada
2008	Visiting Researcher, Imperial College Business School, United Kingdom
2004-2007	Research Fellow, National Center of Competence Research, Switzerland

## Education

2002-2007	PhD in Finance, Swiss Finance Institute (SFI), University of Geneva <i>"Measuring Performance in Active Management: Evidence from Conditional Strategies and Mutual Funds"</i>
2000 - 2001	Master in Economics and Finance, University of Geneva, Switzerland
1996 - 1999	Bachelor in Business Studies (HEC), University of Geneva, Switzerland

## Fields of Interests

Performance Evaluation: Mutual & Hedge Fund Skill & Performance  
Empirical Asset Pricing: Model Evaluation, Return Predictability, Variance Risk Premium

## Awards

- Desmarais Faculty Scholar Award, McGill University, Canada (2018-2021)
- Swiss Finance Institute/Banque Privée Espirito Santo Outstanding Paper Prize for *"False Discoveries in Mutual Fund Performance: Measuring Luck in Estimated Alphas"*

## Grants

- 2020 SSHRC Individual Research Grant
- 2018 CDI Research Grant (with A. Malkhozov and G. Rousselet)
- 2016 SSHRC Individual Research Grant
- 2016 CDI Research Grant (with A. Ardia, P. Gagliardini, and O. Scaillet)
- 2013 CDI Research Grant (with A. Malkhozov)
- 2011 SSHRC Individual Research Grant
- 2011 FQRSC New Researcher Grant

- 2008 Grant for Advanced Researcher, Swiss National Science Foundation
- 2007 Grant for Young Researcher, Swiss National Science Foundation

### **Published Papers**

- *"A Large-Scale Approach for Evaluating Asset Pricing Models"*, 2019, Journal of Financial Economics 134, 549-569
- *"Reassessing False Discoveries in Mutual Fund Performance: Skill, Luck, or Lack of Power? A Reply"*, 2019, Journal of Finance (Replication and Corrigenda), 1-34, with O. Scaillet and R. Wermers
- *"Does Variance Risk Have Two Prices? Evidence from the Equity and Option Markets"*, 2016, Journal of Financial Economics 121, 79-92, with A. Malkhozov
- *"Hedge Fund Return Predictability Under the Magnifying Glass"*, 2013, Journal of Financial and Quantitative Analysis 48, 1057-1083, with D. Avramov and R. Kosowski
- *"False Discoveries in Mutual Fund Performance: Measuring Luck in Estimated Alphas"*, 2010, Journal of Finance 65, 179-216, with O. Scaillet and R. Wermers
- *"International Conditional Asset Allocation Under Specification Uncertainty"*, 2007, Journal of Empirical Finance 14, 443-464
- *"How to Diversify Internationally? A Comparison of Conditional and Unconditional Asset Allocation Methods"*, 2003, Financial Markets and Portfolio Management 17, 194-212, with D. Isakov

### **Working Papers**

- *"Why Do Homeowners Invest the Bulk of the Wealth in their Homes?"*, with S. Betermier
- *"Skill, Scale, and Value Creation in the Mutual Fund Industry"*, with P. Gagliardini and O. Scaillet
- *"Hedge Fund Performance under Misspecified Models"*, with D. Ardia, P. Gagliardini and O. Scaillet
- *"The Economic Gains from Predicting Returns of Multiple Assets"*

### **Press Articles**

- *"Is Hedge Fund Performance Driven by Changing Market Conditions?"*, www.Clearfact.ca, Financial Literacy Site from National Bank, April 1, 2011
- *"Is Performance Worth the Price"*, National Post, July 29, 2010
- *"L'Industrie des Fonds Devra Réduire ses Coûts"*, Bilan Magazine, January 2010
- *"Analyse de Performance: Les Limites du Ratio de Sharpe"*, L'Agefi Magazine, Haute Finance, Fall 2004
- *"Comment Peut-on Manipuler le Ratio de Sharpe?"*, L'Agefi, April 28, 2004

### **Media Appearances**

- *"Le Débat entre Gestion Active ou Passive est Large et Passionné"*, AGEFI, 17 Sept. 2019, Elsa Floret
- *"Des Fonds Communs Sans Danger (ou Presque)"*, Finance et Investissement, September 1, 2015, Claude Dostie Jr

- *"Approche Toujours Controverée"*, Finance et Investissement, November 15, 2014, Yan Barcelo
- *"And the Next Star Fund Manager is..."*, Wall Street Journal, January 17, 2014, Joe Light
- *"Almost No One Can Beat the Market "*, Market Watch (Wall Street Journal), October 25, 2013, by Howard Gold
- *"Twisting the Facts on Active Management"*, Financial Times, May 11, 2010, by Richard Stott
- *"Case for Active Management is Actually Strong"*, Financial Times, May 2, 2010, by Christophe Boucher and Bertrand Maillet
- *"Active Managers: Lucky, Skilful, or Useless?"*, Financial Times, October 21, 2009, by Pauline Skypala
- *"Going Ape"*, Forbes 2009 Investment Guide, December 8, 2008, by Zack O'Malley Greenburg
- *"The Prescient are Few"*, New York Times, July 13, 2008, in the Hulbert Financial Digest
- *"Les Gérants de Fonds ne Créent pas de Valeur, Répètent les Chercheurs"*, Le Temps, November 24, 2008, by Myret Zaki

### **Teaching Experience**

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| Since 2019 | McGill University, Canada <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Applied Investments (Undergraduate)</li> <li>▪ International Capital Markets (MBA Japan)</li> </ul>              |
| Since 2016 | McGill University, Canada <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ International Capital Markets (Master)</li> </ul>  |
| Since 2009 | McGill University, Canada <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Capital Markets and Financial Institutions (Undergraduate)</li> <li>▪ Money and Capital Markets (MBA)</li> </ul> |

### **Consulting Activities**

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| 2007-2008 | External Consulting for Union Bancaire Privée (UBP), Hedge Fund Research Department, Geneva, Switzerland                |
| 2007      | External Consulting for Dynagest, Portfolio Allocation Department, Geneva, Switzerland                                  |
| 2006      | External Consulting for Union Bancaire Privée (UBP), Multi-Management and Fund Research Department, Geneva, Switzerland |

### **Refereeing Activities**

Journal of Finance, Review of Financial Studies, Journal of Financial and Quantitative Analysis, Management Science, Review of Finance, Review of Asset Pricing Studies, Journal of the American Statistical Association, Journal of Econometrics, Journal of Applied Econometrics, Journal of Business and Economic Statistics, Journal of Banking and Finance, Journal of Empirical Finance, Journal of Financial Services Research

## Paper Presentations

- 2020 University of Luxemburg, Luxemburg  
Review of Asset Pricing Studies (RAPS) Winter Conference
- 2019 European Finance Association (EFA) Meeting, Lisbon, Portugal  
Colloquium on Financial Markets' Asset Management, Cologne, Germany  
HEC Montreal-McGill Finance Workshop, Montebello, Canada
- 2018 McMaster University, Hamilton, Canada  
HEC Montreal-McGill Finance Workshop, Montebello, Canada  
Swiss Finance Institute Research Days, Gerzensee, Switzerland  
Western Finance Association (WFA) Meeting (discussant), San Diego, USA  
University of Lugano, Lugano, Switzerland  
McGill University, Montreal, Canada  
Econometrics Community (EC<sup>2</sup>) Annual Meeting, Rome, Italy  
Eurofidai Winter Paris Conference, Paris, France
- 2017 American Finance Association (AFA) Meeting (discussant), Chicago, USA  
Korea University, Seoul, South Korea  
Western Finance Association (WFA) Meeting, Whistler, Canada  
Eurofidai Winter Paris Conference, Paris, France
- 2016 American Finance Association (AFA) Meeting, San Francisco, USA  
Telfer Conference on Accounting and Finance (discussant), Ottawa, Canada  
Vietnam Symposium in Banking and Finance, Hanoi, Vietnam  
HKUST, Hong-Kong, China  
HKUST Finance Symposium (discussant), Hong Kong, China
- 2015 SFS Finance Cavalcade (discussant), Atlanta, USA  
McGill Global Asset Management Conference (discussant), Montreal, Canada  
Northern Finance Association (NFA) Meeting (discussant), Lake Louise, Canada
- 2014 Queen's University, Kingston, Canada  
University of Geneva, Geneva, Canada  
Value Investing Conference at Ivey School (discussant), London, Canada  
NBER Summer Meeting, Boston, USA  
European Finance Association (EFA) Meeting (discussant), Lugano, Switzerland  
Eurofidai Winter Paris Conference, Paris, France
- 2013 HEC Montreal Winter Finance Workshop, Mount St-Anne, Canada  
European Finance Association (EFA) Meeting (discussant), Cambridge, UK  
Northern Finance Association (NFA) Meeting, Quebec, Canada  
Laval University, Quebec, Canada
- 2012 CIRPEE conference on Applied Financial Time-Series, Montreal, Canada  
Institute of Mathematical Finance (IFM2) Meeting, Montreal, Canada  
French Finance Association (AFFI) Meeting, Paris, France
- 2011 McGill University, Montreal, Canada  
Institute of Mathematical Finance (IFM2) Meeting, Montreal, Canada  
Financial Management Association (FMA) Meeting, Porto, Portugal
- 2010 Institute of Mathematical Finance (IFM2) Meeting, Montreal, Canada
- 2009 Erasmus University, Rotterdam, Netherlands  
HEC Montreal, Montreal, Canada  
McGill University, Montreal, Canada  
University of Toronto, Toronto, Canada  
Tilburg University, Tilburg, Netherlands

European Finance Association (EFA) Meeting, Bergen, Norway

2008 Imperial College Business School, London, United Kingdom

2007 Campus for Finance, WHU University, Vallendar, Germany  
University of Neuchatel, Neuchatel, Switzerland  
Financial Management Association (FMA) Meeting, Barcelona, Spain  
Swissquote, Geneva, Switzerland

2006 French Finance Association (AFFI) Annual Meeting, Paris, France  
Zeuthen Conference Annual Meeting, Copenhagen, Denmark

2005 Econometrics Community (EC<sup>2</sup>) Annual Meeting, Istanbul, Turkey  
Imperial College Risk Management Conference, London, United Kingdom  
Geneva Research Collaboration Center (CERN), Geneva, Switzerland