LAURENT BARRAS

Associate Professor – McGill University, Desautels Faculty of Management

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 *"Measuring Performance in Active Management: Evidence from Conditional Strategies and Mutual Funds"*
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

- *"Skill, Scale, and Value Creation in the Mutual Fund Industry"*, 2021, Journal of Finance, Forthcoming, with P. Gagliardini and O. Scaillet
- *"Reassessing False Discoveries in Mutual Fund Performance: Skill, Luck, or Lack of Power? A Reply"*, 2020, Journal of Finance (Replication and Corrigenda), 1-34, with O. Scaillet and R. Wermers
- *"A Large-Scale Approach for Evaluating Asset Pricing Models", 2019,* Journal of Financial Economics 134, 549-569
- *"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*
- *"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 Passioné"*, AGEFI, 17 Sept. 2019, Elsa Floret
- *Des Fonds Communs Sans Danger (ou Presque)*", Finance et Investissement, September 1, 2015, Claude Dostie Jr

- *"Approche Toujours Controvée"*, 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

Since 2019 — McGill University, Canada
- Applied Investments (Undergraduate)
- International Capital Markets (MBA Japan)

Since 2016 — McGill University, Canada
- International Capital Markets (Master)

Since 2009 — McGill University, Canada
- Capital Markets and Financial Institutions (Undergraduate)
- Money and Capital Markets (MBA)

Consulting Activities

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

2021	American Finance Association (AFA) Meeting, Chicago, USA University of Luxemburg, Luxemburg
2020	University of Luxemburg, Luxemburg Review of Asset Pricing Studies (RAPS) Winter Conference, Nassau, Bahamas University of Sherbrooke, Sherbrooke, Canada Eurofidai Winter Paris Conference, Paris, France (Scheduled)
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^2) 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, Danemark
2005	Econometrics Community (EC^2) Annual Meeting, Istanbul, Turkey Imperial College Risk Management Conference, London, United Kingdom Geneva Research Collaboration Center (CERN), Geneva, Switzerland