

**University of Stuttgart**

School of Management: Dept. III - Finance

# Seminar in Finance

Focus on Trends – how new developments change the financial markets

- ✓ ETFs and Sustainability
- ✓ Cryptocurrencies and the power of social media

# The most important facts in brief

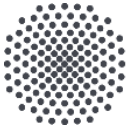
- **Registration** for the seminar via the [online form](#) on our website
- **Registration deadline:** 10<sup>th</sup> April 2025, **assignment of topics** on 11<sup>th</sup> April 2025 by e-mail
- **Kick-off** event: 16th April 2025 at 2.00 p.m. in room 7.011 (Keplerstraße 17, 7th floor)
- **Introduction to databases** (Bloomberg and Morningstar) on 22<sup>th</sup> April 2025 at 11:30 am (online)
- **Submission of written work:** 26<sup>th</sup> June 2025 until 11.30 a.m. by e-mail to [tobias.brand@bwi.uni-stuttgart.de](mailto:tobias.brand@bwi.uni-stuttgart.de)
- **Seminar presentations** on 03<sup>rd</sup>/04<sup>th</sup> July 2025 (submission of presentation slides by the presentation date to [tobias.brand@bwi.uni-stuttgart.de](mailto:tobias.brand@bwi.uni-stuttgart.de))
- Participation in kick-off, database introduction and seminar presentations **mandatory**
- **Registration for the examination node** for the seminar in Campus required during the examination registration period
- The **seminar paper** is an **individual assignment** (each student writes his/her own seminar paper), the **seminar presentations** are a group work (consisting of several students working on the same topic)
- **Examination** consists of written work (60% of the overall grade) and presentation (40% of the overall grade)

## Dates

- ✓ 16.04.25, 14:00  
(Kick-Off)
- ✓ 22.04.25, 11:30  
(Introduction to databases)
- ✓ 03.&04.07.2025, all day  
(Seminar presentations as block seminar)

# Requirements

- Written seminar paper of approx. 12 pages (font size 12, line spacing 1.5)
- [Guidelines for scientific](#) work must be observed
- Seminar paper can be written in either German or English
- Seminar paper consists of (in addition to introduction and summary/outlook)
  - Literature review
    - Summary of the introductory literature and other thematically relevant scientific literature
  - Own empirical analysis
    - Own analysis of a research question related to the introductory literature using financial market data (e.g., replication on another market or for another period) or a question going beyond this
    - Statistical methods: e.g., linear regression or portfolio sorting
    - If you want, you can also analyze further questions
- Individual priorities are possible and desirable both with regard to the weighting of the two components (literature review and empirical analysis) and thematically within the two components



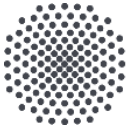
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# Bachelor topics

- Topics for Bachelor students
- Link to background literature on the slide of each topic



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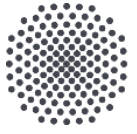
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# Focus on Trends → ETFs vs. Fonds during global change

In recent years, ETFs have emerged as a popular alternative for investing in emerging markets. At the same time, capital flows into these regions have been rising and falling in response to global changes – and increasingly so. Is this driven by ETF investors?



Introductory literature



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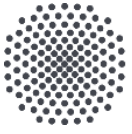
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# Focus on Trends → The joint power of small investors on social media

The GameStop case has demonstrated that online communities can have a massive impact on financial markets. Despite increased regulations, similar cases continue to emerge. How powerful is the internet, and what information is hidden within it?



Introductory literature



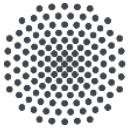
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# Master topics

- Topics for Master students
- Link to background literature on the slide of each topic



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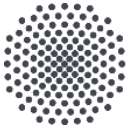
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# Focus on Trends → Characteristics of Cryptocurrencies

Cryptocurrencies are experiencing steady growth and frequently find themselves at the center of attention. While the stock market is one of the most extensively studied markets, many aspects of cryptocurrencies remain unexplained. What factors drive the returns of this emerging technology?



Introductory literature



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# Focus on Trends → Social responsibility (only when things are going well...)

In good economic times, socially responsible investments perform better than less social investments. However, this is reversed when the economy slows down. Investors' demand for socially responsible investments therefore depends on their current wealth.



The Review of Financial Studies

## Socially Responsible Investing in Good and Bad Times

Ravi Bansal  
Fuqua School of Business, Duke University and NBER

Di (Andrew) Wu  
Stephen M. Ross School of Business, University of Michigan

Amir Yaron  
Bank of Israel  
The Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania and NBER

Introductory literature