Sijmen Rijks

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Profile

Current Employment: PhD candidate in Finance at VU Amsterdam
Research Interests: banking, macro-finance, monetary policy, heterogeneous agents
Nationality: Dutch

Current Research

Sticky Deposits and the Bank Lending Channel of Monetary Policy
Single-authored
The Effect of Time-Varying Balance Sheet Costs on New Keynesian Phillips Curve Estimation
Joint with Xuan Wang and Udara Peiris
I conducted a literature review on the macroeconomics of the yield curve, banks' exposure to interest rate risk and banks' balance sheet costs, as well as the Phillips curve. I performed exploratory analysis by estimating local projections of the yield curve, macroeconomic variables and industry-level returns on monetary policy interacted with the duration of government debt. I also started collecting data to answer how local differences in balance sheet costs of banks affect local Phillips curves by changing lending rates.

Research Assistance

Corporate Legacy Debt, Inflation, and the Efficacy of Monetary Policy **by Goodhart, Peiris, Tsomocos & Wang:** I helped design and estimate local projections for the paper. We identified how IRFs to interest rate shocks are different when corporate debt is relatively high in the US. I also gathered international evidence using panel econometrics with data from the JST Macrohistory Database and interest rate shocks from Willems. *2023–2024*

Education

PhD in Finance — VU Amsterdam & EUR *2023– 2027*
Topic: Monetary Policy and Financial Intermediation
Supervised by Sebastian Gryglewicz, Felix Corell (from Sept. 2025) and Xuan Wang (†Aug. 2025)
Research visit at SFI at EPFL (hosted by Erwan Morellec) *Spring 2026*
Research Master in Economics — Tinbergen Institute *2023, GPA: 8.44/10 (cum laude)*
Thesis: "Nominal Corporate Debt, Default and Inflation"
Finance and Macroeconomics track, Advanced Mathematics and Econometrics track
Selected Electives: Distributional Macroeconomics: Tools & Policy (TI lectures, Ben Moll), Banking, Macro Finance & Central Banking, Advanced Topics in Macro I/II, Applied Macroeconometrics
BSc Econometrics — Universiteit van Amsterdam *2021, GPA: 8.55/10 (cum laude)*
Thesis: "Evaluating SRISK as a predictor of bank lending in the Eurozone sovereign debt crisis"

Skills

Programming & Tools: MATLAB, Python, R, LaTeX, Excel
Theoretical Methods: continuous time models, heterogeneous agent models, finite difference methods, sequence space Jacobians, log-linearization
Empirical Methods: local projections, macro panel econometrics
Languages: English (fluent), Dutch (native), Chinese (intermediate, HSK4), German (basic, A2), French (basic, A2)

Presentations

2026 TI PhD Jamboree, 2026, 2025 & 2024 VU Finance PhD Workshop, 2026 UNIL/EPFL PhD Seminar, 2026 Benelux Banking Research Day, 2025 ESE Finance Research Retreat, 2025 FTG Summer School, 2024 TI PhD Seminar

Teaching

Tutorials: Macroeconomics IV: Financial Frictions in Macroeconomics (TI, PhD), Finance I (VU, BSc), Financial Markets & Institutions (VU, MSc)
Thesis Supervision: 37 BSc students in Business Administration and Economics and Business Economics

Awards

Scholarship: Tinbergen Institute merit-based full scholarship (2022-2023)
Award: Dutch National Economics Olympiad, 1st place (2022 & 2023, with Ming Cheng & Maartje v Wijhe)