

IGNACIO CRESPO

RESEARCH INTERESTS

- Primary Fields: Macroeconometrics, Financial Econometrics;
- Secondary Fields: Forecasting, Risk Management and Machine Learning.

EDUCATION

Universitat Pompeu Fabra (UPF) September 2020 - Present
PhD in Economics, Finance and Management Barcelona, Spain

References:

Prof. Christian Brownlees (advisor)
UPF, BSE
christian.brownlees@upf.edu

Prof. Barbara Rossi
UPF, BSE, CREI
barbara.rossi@upf.edu

Prof. David Rossell
UPF, BSE
david.rossell@upf.edu

Universitat Pompeu Fabra (UPF) September 2019 - August 2020
Master of Research (MRes) in Economics, Finance and Management Barcelona, Spain

Advisor: Prof. PhD Christian Brownlees

Dissertation: “*Comparing Predictive Accuracy in Large Panels of Time Series: Does Anything Beat a Factor Model?*”

Barcelona School of Economics (BSE) September 2018 - August 2019
Master of Science in Economics and Finance (*Finance track*) Barcelona, Spain

Degree awarded by Universitat Pompeu Fabra and Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona

Advisor: Prof. PhD Christian Brownlees

Dissertation: “*On Volatility Spillovers: A Network Analysis for the Most Systemically Important Banks in the World*”

Getulio Vargas Foundation (FGV) January 2011 - June 2013
Master of Science in Economics Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

Advisor: Prof. PhD German Pupato

Dissertation: “*Trade Liberalization and Residual Wage Inequality: Evidence from Brazil*”

Inspere Institute of Education and Research July 2007 - December 2010
Bachelor of Science in Economics (Honorable Mention) Sao Paulo, Brazil

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Barcelona School of Economics (BSE)

- Financial Econometrics (TA, graduate level: 2020/2021; 2021/2022; 2022/2023)

Universitat Pompeu Fabra (UPF)

- Statistics and Probability (TA, undergraduate level: 2019/2020; 2020/2021; 2021/2022; 2022/2023)

Inspere Institute of Education and Research

- Macroeconomics II (TA, graduate level: 2014)

WORKING PAPERS

Superior Predictive Ability in Unstable Environments with an Application to Downside Risk Forecasts *Job Market Paper*

This paper introduces the Fluctuant-SPA (FSPA) test, a methodology for evaluating superior predictive ability (SPA) in unstable environments. The highlight of the FSPA test is that it allows to detect superior predictive ability when it is time varying. We showcase our test using a comprehensive assessment of downside risk forecasts to the U.S. economy over a 45-year span, considering a large collection of forecast methodologies. A number of findings emerge from the empirical application. First, there is substantial heterogeneity in forecasting performance across time. Second, the quantile regression equipped with a financial conditions index – a major benchmark in this literature – outperforms its alternatives after the Global Financial Crisis (2007-2009), yet it is surpassed in the periods leading up to the crisis. These local findings contrast with recent global assessments where this benchmark was found inferior to several alternatives. Overall, the empirical application showcases that the FSPA is particularly useful for forecast evaluations in unstable environments.

Does Anything Beat a Factor Model? Comparing Predictive Accuracy in Large Panels of Macroeconomic Time Series *coauthored with Christian Brownlees (UPF) and Eduardo F. Mendes (FGV)*

We assess the evidence of superior predictive ability of the factor model against a comprehensive set of alternative methods for macroeconomic forecasting using the FRED database. For this purpose we introduce a testing procedure that allows to test the null of superior predictive ability of a benchmark method uniformly over both a set of alternative methods and a set of series. Results show that the factor model is not outperformed when forecasting the policy relevant variables at short horizons. When considering longer forecasting horizon we have enough evidence against its dominance and simple methods drive the results. Moreover, heterogeneous results emerge when forecasting different categories of the FRED database. Our results highlight the importance of carrying out uniform testing when assessing predictive ability over a collection of series.

CONFERENCES/SEMINARS

- 29th Finance Forum, the Annual Meeting of the Spanish Finance Association (AEFIN), Santiago de Compostela, Spain (July 2022).
- 5th Annual Workshop on Financial Econometrics, Örebro, Sweden (November 2022).
- BSE Summer Forum (Workshop on Macroeconomics and Policy Evaluation; poster session), Barcelona, Spain (June 2023).
- 27th Meeting of Young Economists (SMYE 2023), Turin, Italy (September 2023).
- 3rd International Econometrics PhD Conference, The Econometric Institute (EI) at Erasmus University Rotterdam (November 2023).

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Guide Investimentos

Economist

July 2013 - August 2018

Sao Paulo, Brazil

- Monitored economic data, producing quantitative analysis and policy briefs for investments decisions.
- Trained and mentored junior analysts on research techniques.
- Primary research spokesperson, frequently talking to reporters/media and clients.

ADDITIONAL QUALIFICATIONS

Language skills

English (Advanced), Portuguese (Native), Spanish (Native)

Relevant IT-skills

R (Advanced), MATLAB (Advanced), Python (Advanced), STATA (Advanced)