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Levy, Daniel and Mayer, Tamir and Raviv, Alon

Bar-Ilan University, Emory University, and RCEA, Bar-Ilan
University, Bar-Ilan University

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Academic Scholarship in Light of the 2008 Financial Crisis: Textual Analysis of NBER Working Papers*

Daniel Levy^a

Department of Economics, Bar-Ilan University, Ramat-Gan 5290002, ISRAEL

Department of Economics, Emory University, Atlanta, GA 30322, USA

RCEA, University of Bologna, Rimini, ITALY

Daniel.Levy@biu.ac.il

Tamir Mayer

Graduate School of Business Administration, Bar-Ilan University, Ramat Gan, 5290002, ISRAEL

Tamirmayer@gmail.com

Alon Raviv

Graduate School of Business Administration, Bar-Ilan University, Ramat Gan, 5290002, ISRAEL

Alon.Raviv@biu.ac.il

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Textual analysis of 14,270 NBER Working Papers published during 1999–2016 is done to assess the effects of the 2008 crisis on the economics literature. The volume of crisis-related WPs is counter-cyclical, lagging the financial-instability-index. WPs by the Monetary-Economics, Asset-Pricing, and Corporate-Finance program members, hardly refer to “crisis/crises” in the pre-crisis period. As the crisis develops, however, their study-efforts of crisis-related issues increase rapidly. In contrast, WPs in macroeconomics-related programs refer quite extensively in the pre-crisis period to “crisis/crises” and to crises-related topics. Overall, our findings are consistent with the claim that economists were not engaged sufficiently in crises studies before the 2008 crisis. However, counter to the popular image, as soon as the crisis began to unravel, the NBER affiliated economists responded dramatically by switching their focus and efforts to studying and understanding the crisis, its causes and its consequences.

JEL Codes: A11, C38, C55, E32, E44, E52, E58, F30, G01, G20, G21, G28

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^a Corresponding author

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“Many professional economists now find themselves answering questions...on topics that did not seem at all central until a few years ago, and we are collectively scrambling to catch up.” **G. Gorton and A. Metrick, *J of Econ. Literature* (2012, p. 128)**

“The study of economics is driven by perceived economic problems, and when those problems seem to go away in the real economy, so does academic interest in the problem.” **R. E. Krainer, *Finance in a Theory of the Business Cycle* (1992, p. xi)**

“The function of these [NBER working] papers...is to get research out quickly...For economists, the WPs provide what amounts to one-stop shopping for new developments in their field.” **P. Krugman, “Understanding NBER,” *NY Times* (April 22, 2013)**

1. Introduction

The global financial crisis of 2007–2009 turned out to be the most serious economic crisis since the Great Depression. It began in 2007 with a crisis in the subprime mortgage market in the US, and developed into an international banking crisis with the collapse of Lehman Brothers on September 15, 2008. The crisis was followed by a global economic slowdown, the Great Recession. The European debt crisis that followed the global banking crisis, turned out to be a multi-year debt crisis that has been battering the EU since the end of 2009, when several countries were unable to repay or refinance their debt, or to bail out their over-indebted banking institutions without external assistance.

As the financial crisis began to unfold, the public began criticizing the economics and finance scholars for failing to recognize the coming of the financial crisis. Criticism was heard from all directions including the press, the electronic media, and even from the late-night comedians.¹ The criticism, however, was not limited to the general public. Many professional economists have joined the debate, expressing their critical views, sometimes using very strongly worded language, although not everyone agreed with them. A common element in many of the critical arguments made was that the economics and finance scholars relied too much on the rational actor paradigm, ignoring the evidence that the market participants often tend to act irrationally, which may drive markets in ways and directions that the standard models cannot anticipate.

Bernanke (2018) argues that the full nature of the crisis was not anticipated by the profession because economists significantly underestimated the impact of the crisis on the real economy. Moreover, existing models did not assign significant roles to many credit-related factors and consequently to the behavior of financial intermediaries. In other words, in the existing models, there was disconnect between real macroeconomy and financial markets. According to Razin

¹ The public discourse is ongoing. See, for example, a recent episode of “The Late Show” with Stephen Colbert, where Paul Krugman explains to Colbert about macroeconomic booms and busts, as the two men ride the Nitro roller coaster at 6-Flags Great Adventure: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ir7lwqnPlrg>, accessed May 12, 2019.

(2014), most theorists concede now that the pre-crisis monetarist consensus was mistaken.

Following the crisis, economists and policymakers began emphasizing the need to revise the economic models, acknowledging that the academic community was not engaged sufficiently in the study of crises, and that there was a need to refocus its attention on empirical questions, models, and policy recommendations that might better explain and help in coping with future crises (Goldstein and Razin 2015). These sentiments, however, are based on perceptions and qualitative assessments, as little has been done to explore systematically and to quantify the extent of the engagement of the academic community before and after the crisis in studying crisis-related issues.

Our goal in this paper is to measure and quantify the nature and the intensity of the academic efforts to study and understand the 2007–2009 financial crisis, as reflected in the academic finance and economics literature, published before, during, and after the crisis. In doing so, we address three specific questions. First, we assess the aggregate scholarly effort around the crisis by quantifying the intensity and the speed of the response of the finance and economics scholars as the crisis was evolving. Second, we analyze the variation across subfields of economics and finance to assess which fields and subfields of economics and finance have led the change. Third, we assess how the focus on different crisis-related topics evolved over time and what was the role of the different research communities in the process.

We address these questions by analyzing the texts of 14,270 National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER) WPs published during 1999–2016. We conduct five sets of analyses. First, we compute the aggregate appearance frequency of the term ‘crisis/crises’ in the WPs and correlate it with the index of economic stability. Second, we construct the time series of the % of WPs with the term ‘crisis/crises’ in the period 1999–2016 for each NBER program. Third, we employ the Latent Dirichlet Allocation (LDA) method of Blei et al. (2003) and Griffiths and Steyvers (2004), to quantify the frequency of the appearance of crisis-related themes/words in the WPs, and measure associations between them. We apply LDA to the abstracts of the WPs, to identify crisis topics, and assess the changes in the weight of each topic over time. Fourth, we study the degree of engagement of the scholars of each program in studying the different topics. Fifth, to assess the effect of the crisis on the study of crisis topics and as an additional analyses, we apply the LDA method also to the crisis WPs only, which are the WPs that primarily focus on financial crisis.

Although the NBER WPs do not go through a blind review process like regular journal articles, they nevertheless offer several advantages. First, the WPs are published and circulated faster than journal articles. Second, NBER affiliates form a large group of highly influential leading scholars, many of them very senior in the discipline. Third, the NBER affiliates form a highly diverse group, specializing in various fields of economics and finance. Fourth, the WPs are free from journal-type editorial management and intervention. Finally, the WPs are widely circulated and cited. We believe therefore, that NBER WPs are particularly useful and relevant for answering the questions we pose.

Our findings are as follows. As a whole, the NBER research community was barely engaged in studying financial crisis before 2008, but its reaction to the crisis was fast and intense. The % of WPs with the word ‘crisis’ increases from 8% in 1999–2007 to 14% in 2008–2016, on average. Moreover, the weights of the crisis topics identified by the LDA algorithm are almost tripled in the post-crisis period.

We also find that the volume of crisis-related WPs is counter-cyclical and lags financial-instability indexes. A regression analysis of the annual frequency of the WPs with the word crisis and the two-year lagged index of Composite Indicator for Systemic Stress (CISS) in the financial system, yields a positive and statistically significant relationship. Moreover, the predicted level of the NBER community engagement in 2015–2016 are below the actual level, suggesting inertia in the study of crisis in the post-crisis period. Further, the actual data fall below the regression line in 2006 and 2007, pointing at the low engagement of the community before the crisis period.

We find however, that in the post-crisis period all relevant NBER programs increased significantly their engagement. The International Finance and Macro program members were engaged in the study of crisis before the crisis, and structural breaks were not observed. The Monetary Economics program had a low engagement before the crisis, but became very active in the post-crisis period, converging with the efforts of the International Finance and Macro program. The members of the Asset Pricing and the Corporate Finance programs, hardly refer to “crisis” in the pre-crisis period. However, as the crisis develops, their study-efforts of crisis-related issues increase most aggressively in comparison to other programs.

LDA analysis identifies 9 crisis topics (out of 500 considered) in the abstracts of the WPs published between 1999 and 2016. These are ‘*International Reserves*,’ ‘*Sovereign Debt*,’ ‘*Repo and Securitization*,’ ‘*Liquidity*,’ ‘*Emerging Markets*,’ ‘*Global Crisis*,’ ‘*Great Recession*,’

'Sudden Stops,' and *'Financial Intermediaries.'*

We find that the topic of *'Emerging Markets,'* typically identified with a crisis in small open economies, became uninfluential in the post-crisis period. Similarly, the topic of *'Sudden Stops,'* which concerns the macroeconomic adjustments needed to deal with a sudden reversal in the net capital inflows, had also disappeared. These topics were studied mainly by the members of the International Finance and Macro and Economic Fluctuations and Growth programs.

Two new topics emerged as a result of the crisis. The first deals with *'Repo and Securitization,'* a natural candidate for causing the crisis as such instruments did not exist in previous crises. It is mainly studied by the Asset Pricing and Corporate Finance programs, which were almost uninvolved in crises-studies before 2008, and by the Monetary Economics program. This topic is almost ignored by the International Macro and Finance program, the most active program in studying financial crises before 2008. There is a sharp decline in the study of the topic from 2013 and on. The second topic that emerged in the post-crisis period is *'Great Recession,'* which relates to the spread of the financial crisis to the real economy and its effects on different aspects of the economy. In contrast to the other crisis topics, we find a persistence in the study of the topic of *'Great Recession.'* Indeed, the topic's weight increases also in the post-crisis period of 2013–2016.

'Liquidity,' *'International Reserves,'* and *'Sovereign Debt'* are pro-cyclical. Similar patterns are observed for the topic of *'Financial Intermediaries,'* which deals with the structure of the financial sector and financial institutions while focusing on the task of regulators, and for the topic of *'Global Crisis.'* The latter focuses on how financial crisis spread across markets and countries. While the topic received almost no attention before the crisis, it became the lead topic among all economics topics in the post-crisis years. In contrast to all other topics (which typically capture the attention of one or two research programs), the topics of *'Global Crisis'* and *'Financial Intermediaries'* drew attention from multiple program members in the post-crisis period, consistent with the assessments of Goldstein and Razin (2015).

When we match the crisis topics with the NBER programs, we find that the International Finance and Macro program members were engaged in the study of crisis before 2008, but they abandoned the research topics of *'Sudden Stops'* and *'Emerging Markets'* in the post-crisis period, shifting their focus to *'International Reserves'* and *'Sovereign Debt.'* In contrast, the members of the Asset Pricing and Corporate Finance programs, who were not engaged in the

study of crisis before 2008, began studying new topics ‘*Repo and Securitization*’ and ‘*Liquidity*.’

To understand how the crisis literature evolved over time, we identify ‘crisis WPs,’ i.e., the NBER WPs with a primary focus on the financial crisis and conduct two LDA analyses. In the first analysis, we conduct an LDA topic analysis of the crisis WPs. While we find significant differences in the average weights of 5 topics (out of the 20 topics considered) between the pre-crisis period (2005–2008), and the crisis period (2009–2012) or the post-crisis period (2013–2016), there is no single topic with a significant difference between its weight during the crisis period (2009–2012) and the post-crisis period (2013–2016). These results are indicative of a significant change in the crisis studies brought about by the 2008 crisis, and of a stability in the crisis study practices and interests in the post-crisis period.

In the second analysis, we study separately the topics for the pre- and post-2008 crisis period. We find several differences between the two periods. First, a topic that makes a first-time appearance only in the post-crisis period is ‘*Fiscal Union and European Union*.’ Second, consistent with the analysis of the entire NBER WPs, the topic of ‘Sudden Stops’ stops suddenly, leaving the stage. Third, the topic of ‘*Monetary Policy*’ in the post-crisis period does not relate to such words as ‘currency,’ ‘exchange,’ and ‘emerging.’ Instead, the topic now refers to ‘central bank’ and its activities. Finally, two new additional topics are ‘*Great Recession*’ and ‘*Repo and Securitization*,’ in relation to the ways of achieving economic recovery and growth, and to the activities of the Federal Reserve.

The paper is organized as follows. In section 2, we discuss textual analysis in economics. In section 3, we describe the data and the methods. In section 4, we study the frequency of the word ‘crisis/crises’ in NBER WPs, followed in section 5, by an analysis of its variability across NBER programs. In section 6, we describe the LDA algorithm for topic modeling, and identify the crisis topics in the NBER WPs. In section 7, we present a meta-study to assess how the engagement in the different crisis topics evolved over time. In section 8, we match crisis topics with research programs to identify subfields that led the study of new research topics or abandoned old research topics. In section 9, we focus on the crisis WPs only, and assess the effect of the 2008 crisis on the studies they report. We conclude in section 10.

2. Textual Analysis and the Study of Financial Crisis

In recent years, LDA topic modeling technique has become a popular method for analyzing

textual data in economics.² We use the LDA to study the evolution of the crisis study around the 2008 financial crisis. Our paper is related to two strands in this literature. The first are studies that use a topic modeling to understand the effects of the financial crisis on policy making. Examples include the analyses of the transcripts of the FOMC meetings, or the transcripts of the meetings of the governing boards of central banks. The second are studies that analyze the contents of economic journals and the trends therein over time. We combine the two by studying the effect of the 2008 financial crisis on the economic literature using the LDA.

Studies of texts in the context of economic and financial crises include Shirota (2016), who identifies and extracts topics concerning the 1997–1998 Asian financial crisis. Fligstein et al. (2017) analyze the Fed’s FOMC meeting minutes to understand why the committee members failed to see the coming of the 2008 crisis. Hansen et al. (2018) also apply the method to the Fed’s FOMC meeting minutes, to study how transparency affects the monetary policy-makers’ deliberations. Keida and Takeda (2018) apply the method to analyze the transcripts of the press-conferences of the governors of the Bank of Japan. Larsen and Thorsrud (2019) employ LDA to quantify media narratives related to business cycles in the US, Japan, and EU.³

The second strand of the literature is composed of several recent papers that study the content of economics journals. Kosnik (2017) assess the distribution of journal pages between micro and macro. Angrist et al. (2017, 2019) use LDA to assess the impact of economics scholarship on other disciplines. Wehrheim (2019) analyses the topics of the articles published in the *Journal of Economic History*. Goldstein et al. (2019) try to understand the topics of “FinTech” by analyzing the abstracts of 156 proposals submitted to a special issue of *Review of Financial Studies*. Bowles and Carlin (forthcoming) apply the LDA method to the corpus of published economic research from 1900 to 2014 in the top economics journals to generate topics, which they use to explore the evolution of the contents of the introductory economics textbooks.

A recent WP by Aigner et al. (2019) is perhaps the most relevant in the context of our paper. Aigner et al. analyze top-cited economic papers before and after the 2008 financial crisis based

² Lüdering and Tillmann (2018), Athey and Imbens (2019), and Gentzkow et al. (2019) survey the methods applicable to the analysis of textual data with applications in economics and finance.

³ A large related literature studies the communication strategies of the Fed and of the FOMC, and their effects on markets, by analyzing the contents of the FOMC minutes, the Fed’s announcements, etc. See, for example, Born et al. (2010), Boukus and Rosenberg (2006), Cecchetti (2003), Cukierman (2009), Ehrmann and Fratzscher (2005, 2007, 2009), Ehrmann et al. (2019), Hansen and McMahon (2016), Kansoy (2019), Kryvtsov and Petersen (2019), Poole (2005), Romer (2010), Shiller (2017), Thornton (2006), Jansen and de Haan (2011), and Woodford (2005). Blinder et al. (2008) survey the earlier studies in this literature.

on the papers' keywords, and find that the term 'financial crisis' only had a marginal presence in the pre-crisis years, but in the post-crisis years, the relative frequency of the term quadrupled. However, they find that the crisis has not led to substantial changes in the way economists view the financial markets. Overall, therefore, they find a stable topical orientation.

Our study differs from theirs in several important ways. First, we ask how the *crisis-related* literature evolved around the 2008 crisis. Aigner et al (2019) in contrast, consider the effect of the crisis on the *entire* economics research. Second, we use a topic modeling algorithm to analyze the WPs, as in Kosnik (2015) and Angrist et al. (2017), and thus we do not limit our analyses to a small number of keywords chosen by authors, as Aigner et al. (2019) do. Third, we consider different fields and subfields of economics and their contribution to the study of crisis overtime across different topics. Finally, we study the texts of NBER WPs, which are unaffected by editorial policies and preferences and, unlike journal papers, are published with no delay.

More importantly however, and counter to the findings of Aigner et al. (2019), we find a significant change around the crisis years in the study of almost all crisis-related topics. In addition, we identify several new topics that have emerged in response to the crisis, and several old topics that have disappeared in response to it. Moreover, we offer evidence on the way the academic reaction varied across different subfields of economics.

3. Data: the NBER Working Papers

Our primary data consist of the 14,270 WPs published by the NBER during 1999–2016. NBER, a private, non-profit leading academic think-tank, is based in Cambridge, MA.⁴ Over 1,400 professors from universities and colleges in North America, have NBER affiliations.

NBER activities are organized around 20 research programs and 13 working groups, each specializing in a particular field, and holding an annual meeting.⁵ In addition, NBER holds a Summer Institute, hosting several dozen workshops during a three-week period.⁶

One of the main NBER activities, however, is the WP Series, a highly influential series of studies authored by the NBER affiliated faculty, covering different fields and subfields of economics and finance, and studying a wide range of topics and issues. The WPs are grouped

⁴ Detailed information on NBER and its activities can be found at: <https://www.nber.org/>.

⁵ The list of the NBER programs and working groups can be found at <https://www.nber.org/> → Activities.

⁶ For example, during the Summer Institute 2019, 52 workshop were held from July 8, 2019 to July 26, 2019. For the list of the workshops, see https://conference.nber.org/conferences/2019/SI2019/SI2019_rev.html.

according to the 20 working programs, and they are circulated and distributed widely.⁷

We choose to study the NBER WPs for several reasons. First, they offer a speed of knowledge dissemination far higher than the traditional academic journals because of the slow review process on which journal editors rely. Indeed, according to Krugman (2013), the function of NBER WPs is to get research out as soon as possible so other economists can discuss it.

Second, the NBER WPs are highly influential, widely circulated and frequently cited. For example, according to IDEAS/RePEc (the largest bibliographic database of economics research), the NBER WP series rank first (Technical WPs included), among the 2,235 WP series included in the ranking.⁸ NBER WPs rank first also based on the *h*-Index, with the index value of 350 and a total of 865,620 adjusted citations. The CEPR Discussion Papers rank second, with an *h*-Index of 221, and a total of 310,301 adjusted citations.⁹

Third, with over 1,400 affiliates, NBER is one of a kind community of academics. The volume of the output produced by the NBER members is extraordinary. Indeed, based on the number of WPs, the NBER WPs series tops the list of the WP series, when we consider all the single-source WP series. According to IDEAS/RePEc, the NBER WP series include 26,223 WPs (including the Technical WPs), followed by CEPR Discussion Papers with 13,635 WPs.¹⁰ Figure 1 plots the time series of the total number of NBER WPs published annually, from 1999 to 2016. According to the plot, there was a sharp increase in 2001 in the number of the WPs published, from about 200 WPs/year to about 700 WPs/year, and it has been increasing since then.

Fourth, the NBER affiliates are leading scholars, specializing in different areas of economics and finance. Many are senior figures, often in charge of editing, coediting, or managing the disciplines' premiere journals. Indeed, according to Krugman (2013), "In many sub-fields of economics, just about anyone well-known in the profession is an NBER research associate."¹¹

Fifth, the NBER WP series are produced by highly diverse group of scholars, without any

⁷ The list of the WPs by research programs can be found at: <https://conference.nber.org/papersbyprog/>.

⁸ Some of the WP series included in this ranking are actually pre-prints of accepted and/or forthcoming papers, which are different from regular WPs because of the blind review process the latter have to go through. In the ranking cited above, the NBER WP series is actually ranked second after Princeton Papers, which is ranked first, but the latter is a series of accepted papers. See: <https://ideas.repec.org/top/top.wpseries.all.html>.

⁹ *h*-Index of a WP series is the number of WPs in the series with at least *h* citations. The citation count figures are adjusted to exclude citations from the same WP series. See: <https://ideas.repec.org/top/top.wpseries.hindex.html>, column 2. For explanatory notes, see: <https://ideas.repec.org/top/top.wpseries.hindex.html#explain>.

¹⁰ See: <https://ideas.repec.org/top/top.wpseries.all.html>, column 2.

¹¹ According to the NBER, 29 Nobel Prize winners in Economics, and 13 past Chairmen of the President's Council of Economic Advisers have held NBER affiliations. See: <https://www.nber.org/info.html>.

kind of journal-type editorial intervention, review, or guidance. Therefore, NBER WPs are relatively free from biases that journal editorial boards might have towards their preferred questions, methodology, modelling framework, empirical strategy, etc.

Additional advantage of the NBER WPs is their particular attention to policy-related issues. Indeed, according to Fabricant (1984, p. 2), the NBER's Director of Research from 1953 to 1965, one of the guiding principles of the NBER from its establishment in 1920, was that "Its research should concentrate on determining facts, and the connections among facts, that are important in dealing with major problems of economic policy."¹²

Descriptive statistics for the six NBER programs are presented on Table 1.¹³ During 1999–2016, the annual average number of WPs per program was 98.8. The largest program is Economic Fluctuations and Growth with 191.28 WPs/year, on average, and the smallest is Health Care (not shown), with 32 WPs. The activities of all programs increased significantly during the last few years. For example, the total number of WPs published annually increased from 199 in 1999, to a peak of 1,180 in 2013 (Figure 1). The average annual number of WPs per program had increased as well, from 71.1 before the crisis period 1999–2007, to 132.7 after the crisis period 2008–2016.

4. Content Analysis

The most basic notion in content analysis is the words' frequency because the words that are mentioned most often are presumably also the words that reflect the greatest relevance (Stemler 2000). Our starting point therefore, is the frequency of the word 'crisis/crises' in the WPs.

4.1. Frequency of the Word 'Crisis/Crises' in the NBER WPs over Time

We consider several measures of the words' frequency. First, we count the total number of times that the word 'crisis/crises' is mentioned in all NBER WPs annually. Second, to control for the changing size of the NBER community, we adjust the data for the number of WPs published annually, yielding the average appearance frequency of "crisis/crises" per WP. Third, we calculate the % of the WPs that mention the word crisis annually. This helps us identify the WPs

¹² Despite this, the authors of the NBER WPs are expected "...to ascertain and present to the economics profession, and to the public more generally, important economic facts and their interpretation in a scientific manner without policy recommendations." Source: Amended and Restated By-Laws of NBER, Inc., Adopted April 28, 2014. See: <https://www.nber.org/NBERByLaws.pdf>, accessed June 11, 2019.

¹³ In the appendix, in Table 1A, we present these figures for all 20 NBER research programs.

that might relate to the crisis, and the WPs that completely ignore it.¹⁴

Figure 2a shows the total number of appearances of the word ‘crisis/crises’ in the first five paragraphs of the introductory sections of all NBER WPs. The frequency, as the figure shows, had tripled from 100 in 1999 to about 250 in 2002, remained at that level until 2005, and then dropped back. It increased again in 2006 and 2007, but in 2008, as the financial crisis began to unravel, it jumped sharply to 600, reaching the peak of 700 in 2011. By 2016 it was down at 500, but still twice as high as the pre-crisis average.

To control for the increase in the number of WPs, Figure 2b plots the average number of appearances of the word “crisis,” in the first five paragraphs of the introductory section, per WP. The average frequency was stable at around 0.40–0.42 from 1999 till about 2004, and then dropped to about 0.16 in 2006, suggesting that the discipline had lost interest in crises in that period. At this point the average frequency started to climb monotonically, reaching the peak of 0.70 in 2011. During the post-crisis period, the figure went back down to around 0.45.

Figure 2c shows the % of crisis WPs, which we define as WPs that mention the word ‘crisis/crises’ at least once in the first five paragraphs of the introductory section.¹⁵ The %, which stood on 10% in 1999, decreased to 6%–7% during the pre-crisis years. In 2009, in the midst of the crisis, it jumped to 13.8%, and continued climbing, reaching 17.8% in 2011. It then went down, reaching a trough in 2015–2016, but still above the pre-crisis level, around 12%–14%. The plot suggests that the academic interest in crisis is counter-cyclical: the sharp increase in the number of crisis WPs occurs during the period of the great recession.

According to Table 2, the % of crisis WPs averaged 8.3% during the pre-crisis period, 1999–2007, and 13.5% during the post-crisis period, 2008–2016. The difference is statistically significant the 1% level with $z = 9.95$. Moreover, according to Table 3, the sup-Wald statistic attains its maximum value of 70.36 in 2009, also significant at the 1% level.

¹⁴ We should note two potential difficulties in the context of word frequency count. First, the use of synonyms can lead to an underestimation of the importance of a concept (Weber 1990). Indeed, there are several synonyms for the word ‘crisis’ such as a ‘recession,’ ‘financial turmoil,’ ‘market crash,’ ‘depression’, etc. However, none of these synonyms are as strong and as charged as the word ‘crisis,’ as none of them encompass the entire set events and circumstances that are captured by the word ‘crisis.’ Second, some words may have multiple meanings. For instance “state” could mean a political body, a situation, or a verb meaning “to speak.” Therefore, we also use LDA topic modeling in sections 6–8 and in section 10, to conduct robustness check to validate our results.

¹⁵ This somewhat arbitrary definition of a *crisis WP* is not fool proof, and thus we address it further below in section 8 and 9. However, if a WP fails to mention the word ‘crisis/crises’ even once, then arguably, it cannot be considered a crisis WP. Thus, our definition imposes a lower bound on the engagement of the WP author/s in the crisis study.

4.2. Crisis Study and Financial Instability Indexes

To assess the correlation of the crisis study intensity with financial instability, we consider two indexes of financial instability. The first is the Kansas City Financial Stress Index (KCFSI), a monthly measure of stress in the U.S. financial system, based on 11 financial market variables (Hakkio and Keeton, 2009). The second index, Composite Indicator of Systemic Stress (CISS), is based on the aggregation of 5 market-specific sub-indices constructed from 15 individual financial stress measures of EU. The index puts a high weight on situations where stress prevails in several market segments simultaneously, capturing the idea that financial stress is more systemic and thus more dangerous if financial instability spreads widely (Holló et al. 2012).

We calculate annual averages of the two indexes to match the annual frequency of our data. Figure 3a and Figure 3b indicate a high correlation between the % of crisis WPs and 2-year lagged CISS and KCFSI indexes, respectively. In other words, the number of crisis WPs lags the financial instability indexes. Indeed, the regression estimation results in column 1 of Table 4 are consistent with this interpretation. The slope and the intercept of the estimated regression are both positive and statistically significant at the 1% level with $\bar{R}^2 = 0.68$.

According to Figure 3c, which shows a scattered plot of the two variables, the predicted level of the academic engagement in the crisis study in 2015 and 2016 are far below the actual level, suggesting a persistency in crisis studies (predicted values of 8% and 9% vs. actual values of 13% and 14% respectively). Thus, there is “*inertia*” in the study of crisis in the-post crisis period. Moreover, the actual observations fall below the regression line in 2006 and 2007, pointing at the low engagement of the academic community before the crisis period.

We obtain similar results when we include in the regression a dummy variable for the post-2008 period. The regression coefficients are still positive and significant at the 1% level with $\bar{R}^2 = 0.66$ (column 3, Table 4). When the CISS index is added to the regression, the estimated coefficients are positive and significant at the 1% level with $\bar{R}^2 = 0.96$ (column 4, Table 4).

The 2-year lagged US index for financial stability, KCFSI, also has a positive and statistically significant relationship with the frequency of crisis WPs, but to a lesser extent than the European index. Here $\bar{R}^2 = 0.28$, which is significantly lower, and the slope of the regression equation is significant at the 5% level (column 2 of Table 4).

5. Crisis and the NBER Research Programs

The NBER research activities are organized into 20 programs, *covering* all major subjects in economics.¹⁶ We focus on six programs: Monetary Economics, International Trade and Investment, Corporate Finance, Asset Pricing, International Finance and Macroeconomics, and Economic Fluctuations and Growth. We choose these programs for several reasons. First, the topics of these programs cover are perhaps the closest and therefore most relevant for the study of financial crises. Second, the great majority of the Research Associates that are members in these programs, specialize in either monetary economics, macroeconomics, or finance, the subfields of economics that are most closely associated with issues related to financial crises. Third, these program members have produced the highest % of crisis WPs.¹⁷ Finally, they are among the largest NBER programs in terms of research output, and the number of members.

Out of the 14,270 NBER WPs that were published during 1999–2016, 1,632 of them, i.e. 11.4%, are crisis WPs. The six programs noted above engage most extensively in crises study, in terms of both the absolute number and the % of crisis WPs. The total number of WPs published by the members of these programs ranges between 1,977 and 3,634. Of these, between 189 (International Trade) and 737 (International Finance and Macroeconomics) are crisis WPs. The programs, however, differ in both, the intensity as well as the speed of their reaction to the crisis.

For each program, we run three tests to understand how the program’ members were engaged in studying the crisis and how they have reacted to the crisis. First, we use z -test to compare the average % of crisis’ WPs written before and after 2008 (Table 2). Second, for each program we run a regression of the average annual % of crisis WPs published by the program members, on the average annual % of crisis WPs produced by all programs (Table 5). A regression coefficient of greater (less) than 1 suggests that the program is more (less) “active” in studying the crisis in comparison to the average of the entire NBER community. The intercept can be interpreted as the program members’ efforts to study crisis when the rest of the community is not engaged in studying it. Third, we apply sup-Wald (Quandt Likelihood Ratio) test for identifying structural breaks (Table 3). The time series plot of the average annual % of crisis WPs for eight NBER research programs (the above six programs, plus two more for reference), is shown on Figure 4.

¹⁶ In addition, there are 13 NBER working groups. The working groups are smaller than NBER programs, and they also tend to be more narrow-focused, often studying a single topic.

¹⁷ We exclude from the list of the programs Developments of the American Economy because it specializes in a geographic region unlike other NBER programs.

Table 2 presents descriptive statistics on crisis WPs for the six programs. According to the table, the members of the International Finance and Macroeconomics and Monetary Economics programs published the highest numbers of crisis WPs, 737 and 468, respectively, during the sample period. These are the only two programs that have an average % of crisis' WPs, 29.6% and 11.9%, respectively, that exceed the average of all NBER programs before the crisis, 8.3%.

The crisis effect on the scholarly interests of the members of the International Finance and Macroeconomics program is small, but statistically significant. From 2008 to 2016, the average % of crisis WPs the program members published increased to from 29.6% to 36.9%, with $t = 3.70$, $p < 0.01$. According to Table 5, the regression of the annual % of crisis WPs of this program, on the annual % of crisis WPs of all NBER programs, yields a positive intercept of 15.2%, significant at the 5% level. This suggests that this program members were engaged in studying crisis-related topics when all other programs were studying other topics.¹⁸ The slope estimate, 1.65, is low, but statistically significant at the 1% level.

In contrast, we observe a big change in the intensity of the Monetary Economics program members in the post-crisis period, averaging 31.6% crisis WPs after 2008, compared to 11.9% before 2008. By 2016, the two programs, International Finance and Macroeconomics and Monetary Economics, converge to the same peak, 46% of the average % of crisis WPs, as Figure 4 indicates. In other words, by 2016 almost half of the WPs produced by these two research groups, had some crisis-related content. Using topic modelling analysis, however, we show below that there are important differences between the questions that the two program members ask and the particular topics they chose to study.

The Monetary Economics program is the most “counter cyclical” and aggressive in studying the crisis with a slope of 2.92, significant at the 1% level, relative to the average of the entire NBER community (Table 5). Nevertheless, the reaction of its members was relatively slow compared to the finance-focused programs. Indeed, according to Table 3, the sup-Wald statistic for a structural break in 2008 for this program is significant only at the 10% level ($p = 5.58\%$). Also, according to Figure 4, it caught up with the International Finance and Macroeconomics program, in terms of its engagement intensity, only in 2011.

¹⁸ The early interest of the members of the International Finance and Macroeconomics group in crises-related topics is likely the result of the LDC debt crisis of the 1980s and the Asian crises of 1990s, both of which were extensively studied by the members of this group. The results of some these studies were published in Sachs (1989a, 1989b) and in other follow up NBER edited volumes.

The members of two finance-related programs, Corporate Finance and Asset Pricing, had barely referred to crisis before 2008. The average annual frequency of crisis WPs published before 2008 by the members of these two programs, are 7.3% and 5.3%, respectively.¹⁹

Moreover, these are the only two programs with negative and statistically significant intercept estimates, about -11% in both cases, in the regression estimates in Table 5. While these program members seem to have been completely disconnected from the study of crisis related issues prior to the 2008 crisis, their reaction to it was the fastest and perhaps also most dramatic among all programs. The sup-Wald statistic attains its maximum value for the two programs in 2008. According to Table 2, the average % of crisis WPs after 2008 equals 26.1%, more than triple in comparison to pre-crisis period, for the Corporate Finance program. For the Asset Pricing program, it is 22.5%, more than quadrupling in comparison to pre-crisis period. Moreover, Figure 4 shows that the two programs are still very active in studying the crisis, with a similar extent of engagement over time. The slope estimates in Table 5 equal 2.52 and 2.3 for Corporate Finance and Asset Pricing programs, respectively, both significant at the 1% level.

Two programs, International Trade and Investment, and Economic Fluctuations and Growth, behave very similarly until 2012 (Figure 4). Prior to the crisis, both program members have a low engagement in crisis-related topics, but it jumps following the 2008 crisis. However, the two programs diverge in 2012. The members of Economic Fluctuations and Growth program seem to keep the same level of engagement, but the members of the International Trade and Investment program reduce their crisis-related study efforts to the pre-crisis levels.

Finally, looking at the last three years of our sample period, 2014–2016, in Figure 4, the Monetary Economics, International Finance and Macroeconomics, Corporate Finance, Asset Pricing, and Economic Fluctuation and Growth program members are still engaged in studying the crisis in the same intensity as in the period immediately following the crisis, 2009–2012. International Trade and Investment along with other programs, however, have reduced their efforts to study crises. See Table 2A of the Appendix.

6. Topic Modelling Using LDA

Topic modelling algorithms are designed to approximate what happens in human brain when

¹⁹ As an illustration, *only 4 WPs out of 86 WPs* published in 2007 by the Corporate Finance program, mention the word “crisis.” Even more extreme, *only one WP out of 92 WPs* published by the Asset Pricing program in 2007 mentions the word “crisis.”

we read and interpret texts.²⁰ Machines cannot do this on their own, we need to teach them. This is done by feeding the machine with input, i.e., texts.

Topic modelling algorithms take as input textual information, for example documents, treating them as a bag of interchangeable words where syntax rules play no role. The algorithms identify the topics in the documents and produce a list of words found in the documents that form a given topic. In other words, the algorithms take texts, and break them down into lists of words, such that the words in each list are related to each other, and each list forms a topic. The algorithms assign to each word the probability of how likely it is to appear in the context of the given topic. The resulting model consist of the topics, the words, and the context, which is viewed as approximately resembling the human brains' interpretation of textual information.

The algorithms use words' statistical co-occurrence patterns to produce a group of related words, which form a topic or a theme. A word can belong to many topics. The importance of each word is determined relative to other words in the topic, and thus the occurrence frequency of each word in a topic is ranked relative to the occurrence frequencies of other words.

Topic modelling algorithms assume that words in a given text are related. In our case, NBER WPs are usually addressing few research questions and thus their texts are highly contextualized. The algorithms assume also that a given text/document contains multiple topics, where a *topic* is defined as a distribution over a fixed vocabulary of terms. For example, if NBER WPs cover K topics, then we can assume that each WP covers these topics with different proportions. This seems reasonable because NBER WPs are quite heterogeneous, and therefore we can think of them as combining a subset of themes that are found in all NBER WPs. In other words, in topic modelling, we think of a document as a probability distribution over topics, and we think of a topic as a probability distribution over words. The model's goal, therefore, is to simultaneously estimate the word content of each topic, and the topic content of each document.

As an example, suppose that we have a set of D documents (WPs) that consist of a total of W different words, and consider a matrix whose elements are the probabilities that word w_i is present in document d_j . By breaking down the document texts into K *topics*, the algorithm produces two probability matrices. The $(i, k)^{\text{th}}$ element of the first matrix is the probability that

²⁰ For example, humans can tell apart the different meanings of the word *fair* based on the context, such as in (1) it is not fair, (2) the school held a book fair, (3) the weather is fair, and (4) he did a fair job under the circumstances.

word w_i is present in topic k . The $(k, j)^{\text{th}}$ element of the second matrix is the probability that topic k is present in document d_j .

More formally, topic modelling algorithms model the probability that word w_i is present in document d_j as a product of two probabilities. The first is the probability that word w_i is present in topic k , $P(w_i | z_i = k)$. The second is the probability that topic k is found in document d_j , $P(z_i = k | D = d_j)$. In other words, the algorithm assumes that

$$P(w_i | D = d_j) = \sum_{k=1}^K \left[P(w_i | z_i = k) P(z_i = k | D = d_j) \right]$$

where $P(w_i | D = d_j)$ is the probability distribution of words in document d_j , $P(w_i | z_i = k)$ is the probability distribution of words in topic k , and $P(z_i = k | D = d_j)$ is the probability distribution of topics in document d_j .

To classify the NBER WPs into different topics, we employ Latent Dirichlet Allocation (LDA), perhaps the most common algorithm used today for topic modelling. We use Mallet-LDA, a popular Java implementation for LDA. LDA assumes that the two probability distributions (probability distribution of words in topics and the probability distribution of topics in documents) are multinomial. Each distribution is drawn from a Dirichlet distribution, a multivariate extension of Beta distribution, which allows the estimates of $P(w_i | z_i = k)$ and $P(z_i = k | D = d_j)$ to be updated iteratively (Blei et al 2003, Steyvers and Griffiths 2007, Blei and Lafferty 2009, Fligstein et al 2017, Jegadeesh and Wu 2016, and Knispelis 2016).

The LDA algorithm proceeds as follows. First, it chooses random words from different documents, forming “initial topics.” Next, the algorithm proceeds iteratively through each word in each document and estimates the influence of each word on each topic, by assessing the corresponding probabilities, as noted above. One of the assumptions in this process is that all the other words in the topic are correct, besides the current word. The algorithm will reassign the current word to a topic depending on the estimated correlation with and without the word.

To implement an LDA algorithm, three inputs are needed. The first is the number of topics,

which the model has no way of determining on its own. By choosing the number of topics K , we are “forcing” the algorithm to identify K topics in the text. The other two inputs are hyper-parameters α and β , both parameters of Dirichlet distribution. The parameter α governs the prior topic distribution per document, while the parameter β governs the prior word distribution per topic, controlling for the expected density of words in topics. High (low) α will lead to many (few) topics per document. High β yields topics with words that contribute more uniformly to topics, while low β will lead to few words dominating a topic. This implies, for example, that high $\alpha(\beta)$ will make documents (topics) appear more similar to each other because it makes every topic appear in every document, while low $\alpha(\beta)$ will make documents (topics) appear more distinct from each other because it will make every document be represented by fewer topics.²¹

To apply the LDA topic modelling algorithm, the raw textual data - the NBER WPs, had to be pre-processed and cleaned to remove all the “irrelevant” information, i.e., all possible sources of “noise.” We follow the steps outlined by Fligstein et al. (2017, p. 11), as described below.

First, we downloaded the WPs from the NBER website, and converted them from PDF format to a Text format. Second, we filtered out of the text files the paper titles, the author/s names and other author-related information, the page numbers, graphs, equations, references, etc., keeping only the primary text. We had to repeat this process several times with different filtering instructions, because different WPs have different layouts and patterns. Third, we removed from each file, all the text except the first 5 paragraphs of the introduction.²² Fourth, we removed from the 5-paragraph texts, the “stop words” (“is,” “the,” etc.). In addition, we used a word-stemmer to remove any generic suffixes from the words, which enabled us to group them into similar word groups, when running the algorithm. Fifth, we combined different spellings of a given term such as “crisis” and “crises,” into a single word – “crisis.” Note that the first three steps apply only to the second part of our study, where we analyze the contents of the body of the WPs (section 9), rather than their abstracts (section 6).

²¹ For more details about LDA and its implementation, see Jegadeesh and Wu (2016), who apply the method to analyze the minutes of the FOMC meetings.

²² This choice was based on our belief that the WPs’ introductory paragraphs will usually contain all the topic-related statements and thus words. Robustness analyses we run suggests that relying on the first 5 paragraphs is indeed sufficient.

The model starts by assigning to each word a generic label, based on their appearance in the text. Next, the model combines the context (WPs), the words that remain after pre-processing, and the topics, producing a topic distribution, i.e., what topics appear in the documents. The algorithm sorts the words and ranks them based on their appearance frequency by computing for each word a probability that it will belong to a topic. Because the labels the algorithm assigns to the topics, Topic 1, Topic 2, etc., are meaningless, we replace them with a more meaningful labels, based on the topic's content, based on the list of the words in the topic.

We programmed these steps in a special Python module, which automated the entire process. We cached the results of each step which made it easier to run the analyses many times, and to monitor the process to ensure that the results were reliable and optimized. After implementing these preliminary steps, the database was ready for processing using a topic-modeling algorithm.

As noted, we had to choose three parameters. It turns out that a reasonable number of topics in the first part of the analyses is $K = 500$. We set $\alpha = 0.01$ and $\beta = 0.01$, which were also the default values of the LDA implementation we employed. The choice of β was made based on the recommendations of the existing studies (Stayvers and Griffiths 2007, Paul and Girju 2009, Fligstein et al. 2017, Jegadeesh and Wu 2016, and Knispelis 2016).

To assess the sensitivity of the results to the parameter choices, we explored other possible values for α and K . See Table 6. The figures in the table are the number of crisis' topics that the algorithm identified for each combination of α and K . As the table indicates, an increase in number of topics K , increases the number of crisis' topics the algorithm identifies. However, it turns out that any additional crisis' topics beyond 9, are either irrelevant or indistinguishable from the first 9 topics. We have therefore settled on $\alpha = 0.01 = 1\%$ and $K = 500$.²³

We identify crisis WPs by looking for the word "crisis." Using the LDA algorithm, we identified 9 crisis topics. Table 7 presents top-10 words in each topic. The title we gave to each topic are based on the words that appear with the highest frequency in the topic.²⁴ The 9 topics are labeled "*International Reserves*," "*Sovereign Debt*," "*Liquidity*," "*Emerging Markets*," "*Repo and Securitization*," "*Global Crisis*," "*Great Recession*," "*Sudden Stops*," and "*Financial*

²³ Jegadeesh and Wu (2016) report a similar figure. In analyzing their data, they settle on 8 topics, after conducting a similar sensitivity analysis.

²⁴ In case of synonyms, we add up the frequencies based on one representative word. For example, 'intermediaries' summarizes the words 'bank,' 'institutions,' 'sector,' and 'intermediaries,' which together appear more frequently than the second most frequent word in the topic—'market.'

Intermediaries.” To confirm that the topics indeed deal with the crisis, we checked that the word ‘crisis’ is actually mentioned in the 20 papers with the highest probability for each topic. Out of the 180 papers that we review, 178 papers mention the word crisis at least once. The full list of these papers is given in Appendix B.

7. Meta-Study of Crisis Topics

To assess how scholars dealt with the crisis, we focus on the 9 crisis topics that we have identified, and examine the discipline’s treatment of the topics in terms of the amount of the attention the topics received, and how that attention varied over time, particularly around the crisis’ years. We also try to determine whether the evolution of the crisis topics was a stable processes, or perhaps it experienced changes. We describe the methods of our analysis in Section 7.1, followed by a discussion of the findings in Section 7.2.

7.1. Topics’ Rank and Structural Breaks

To assess the effect of the 2008 crisis on crisis topics and their trends, we look at 9 time series that show the weight of each crisis topic in the NBER WPs’ abstracts. We find that the behavior of the sum of the weights of all topics (Figure 5), is similar to the % of crisis WPs (Figure 2c).

Figure 6 shows the average weight of each crisis topic between 1999 and 2016. We analyze the trends in three ways. First, Table 8 shows the annual rank of each topic among the 500 topics that were considered by the LDA algorithm. Second, to determine whether the evolution of the topics has followed a stable processes over time, or perhaps experienced a break, we use Quandt-Andrews sup-Wald test for structural breaks, which is particularly useful in settings with *unknown* break points.²⁵ To apply the method, we choose 15% symmetric trimming from both ends of the sample ($0.15T < TB < 0.85T$). We also calculate the Wald statistic for the years 2007, 2008, and 2009 to test for a *known* structural break during the period of the financial crisis.²⁶

Finally, we use z -test to compare the average % of crisis WPs written before the crisis (2005–2008), during and immediately after the outbreak of the crisis (2009–2012), and during the post

²⁵ The sup-Wald test for structural breaks is based on Quandt’s (1960) sequential application of the traditional Chow test for an unknown breakpoint. The test, known as the Quandt-Andrews sup-Wald test, is based on computing Wald test statistic for each of the possible breakpoints within a range of dates, and then finding their supremum. Hansen (1997) generates the approximate p -values for the sup-Wald statistic. See also Andrews (1993).

²⁶ Because of the trimming, structural breaks that occur in the proximity of the end points, 1999–2002 and 2014–2016, cannot be detected.

crisis period (2013–2016). We interpret a positive or a negative significant z -test statistics as an evidence of the effect of the crisis on the importance of a topic. We can identify the “persistence” in the study of a topic if the z -test statistic is positive and significant between both the pre-crisis and the post-crisis periods, and between the pre-crisis period and the crisis period. Similarly, a sign of “reversal” or no evidence for persistence is identified by an insignificant z -test statistics between the pre-crisis and the post-crisis periods, and a positive and significant z -test statistics between the pre-crisis and the post-crisis periods.

7.2. Trends in Topics over Time

Here we consider the evolution of the crisis topics over time and assess the effects of the 2008 crisis.

7.2.1. General Trends

Based on the ranking of the crisis topics, we classify the 9 topics into three groups. One group includes the emerging topic during the crisis period of ‘*Great Recession*,’ which is related to the spread of the financial crisis to the real economy. The second group of topics are the disappearing topics, ‘*Emerging Markets*’ and ‘*Sudden Stops*.’ The third group of topics are topics in which the crisis has only short positive effect on their weights. These topics include ‘*Financial Intermediaries*,’ that deals with the structure of financial markets and institutions that make them fragile, ‘*Liquidity*,’ which deals with both market dry out and liquidity traps, ‘*Repo and Securitization*,’ which deals on the effect of short term liabilities backed by risky portfolio of loans and bonds, ‘*Global Crisis*,’ which related to the global spread of local crisis and ‘*International Reserves*,’ and ‘*Sovereign Debt*.’ Interestingly, there is a decline in all crisis’ topics from the end of 2013 and on, except in ‘*Sovereign Debt*’ and ‘*Great Recession*,’ which remain relatively flat in the post-crisis period.

The effect of the crisis on each topic can be seen through the plots in Figure 7 and Tables 10, which shows the time series of the Wald-statistic for a structural break for each topic. The results indicate that all topics except ‘*Emerging Markets*,’ experienced statistically significant structural breaks during the sample period. Moreover, with the exception of ‘*Sovereign Debt*,’ all breaks occur either during the 2007–2009 financial crisis, or thereafter. All breaks with the exception of ‘*Sudden Stop*’ and ‘*Sovereign Debt*,’ are followed by an increase in the topics’ weights (See Figures and 6 as well as Table 8).

The topics of ‘*International Reserves*’ and ‘*Global Crisis*’ experience the most significant breaks in 2009 according to the sup-Wald test. In 2007, our LDA model ranks the topics of “*International Reserves*” and ‘*Global Crisis*’ at 181 and 218 out of 500 (Table 8). However, at 2009 the two topics are ranked at 53 and at the 1st place respectively. The increase in the importance of the topic of ‘*Global Crisis*’ is also captured by a positive significant difference between the means of the pre-crisis period (2005–2008) and the crisis period (2009–2012). There is no significant difference in means for the same periods for the topic of “*International Reserves*”, which can be explained by the decline in the importance of the topic since 2012.

The first structural break during the crisis period occurs in 2008 for ‘the topic of “*Liquidity*.”’ In 2007 the topic was ranked at 202 and in 2008 at 72. Similar to the topic of “*International Reserves*” there is no persistency in studying this topic and in 2012 the topic is ranked at 145. The topic of “*Great Recession*” experiences the first significant structural break only in 2009 based on Wald test and in 2010 based on sup-Wald test. The topic is ranked at 241 in 2007 and at 19 in 2010. The topic of ‘*Financial Intermediaries*’ experienced most significant break in 2012 and moves from the 86th place in 2007 to the 38th place in 2012. However, in 2015 the topic is ranked at 179 and the weights converge to the pre-crisis levels.

7.2.2. Sudden Stop in the “*Sudden Stop*”

The term “Sudden Stop,” coined by Calvo (1998) following the 1994 Mexican crisis, describes situations where there is a sharp reversal in the aggregate foreign capital inflows. While there is no consensus on what triggers such reversals, two consequences have been amply documented—exchange rate drops and economic downturns, effectively constricting domestic consumption smoothing. Moreover, sudden stops typically come in clusters: the 1994 Mexican crash triggered a sudden stop in Argentina in 1995. In 1997–1998, the East Asian crisis engulfed 7 neighboring countries.

Macroeconomists’ efforts to develop models that could explain sudden stops followed. According to Claessens and Kose (2013), these models tend to focus on the role of international factors, as captured by changes in international interest rates or spreads on risky assets, in causing sudden stops in capital flows. These models can explain the current account reversals, as well as the real exchange rate depreciations typically observed during emerging market crises.

In 2000, our LDA model ranks the topic of “*Sudden Stop*” at 450 out of 500 (Table 8). In the following years, the topic receives a lot of attention, so much so that by 2004, it ranks 32, the

highest rank a crisis' topic attained in that year. While the topic was still ranked at 181 in 2008, it disappears in the post-crisis period, ranking at 477 by 2009. Consistent with these variability in the ranking, we observe two significant structural breaks. The first in 2004, when the topic reaches its peak, and the second in 2007, when it starts to disappear from the literature.²⁷ Moreover, as shown in Table 9, the topic of '*Sudden Stop*' is the only topic in which a significant negative z -test at the 5% is observed between both the pre-crisis period and the crisis period and between the pre-crisis period and the post crisis period.

7.2.3. A Reversal in the Study of '*Repo and Securitization*'

The financial crisis led many prominent scholars to suggest new study directions to cope with the ongoing crisis and prevent future crisis. One natural candidate that was viewed as amplifying the financial crisis, was the use of short-term debt instruments such as repo agreements and asset-backed-commercial papers (ABCP), to finance securitized long-term debt. These types of transactions were considered a likely culprit in fueling the crisis because such instruments were almost non-existent during the previous crises, and there was an explosive growth in their usage in the years prior to the 2008 crisis. Gorton and Metrick (2012b) suggest that securitization was a major channel for the fast growth of the "shadow banking" system. The increased vulnerability of the system came as a surprise to policymakers and economists, but understanding these instruments is critical for understanding the contagion that eventually spread to the real economy.

Indeed, our results show a significant structural break in 2009 for '*Repo and Securitization.*' The Wald-statistic for the topic equals 39.1 (Table 10) and the rank of the topic shifts from the 423rd place in 2008 to the 40th place in 2009 (3rd among the crisis topics in that year). The topic remains at the center of the academic research until 2012, where it ranks 29th (3rd among the crisis topics in that year). However, the interest in the topic declines fast in the post-crisis period, where the topic is ranked 371 in 2015.²⁸ The robustness of the results are strengthened by the z -

²⁷ While explaining the reasons for the decline in the topic's importance is beyond the scope of our paper, according to Caballero (2010), the key concern before the financial crisis burst was that the US would experience a sudden stop in capital flows along with a sharp depreciation in the dollar, predictions which did not materialize. Mendoza and Yue (2012) propose a general equilibrium model which links sovereign default to business cycles and note that in most of the sudden stops' literature, the loss of credit market access is modeled as the result of an exogenous shock, whereas in their proposed model the exclusion from credit markets and the economic collapse are endogenous and influence each other.

²⁸ While there may be many possible reasons for the emergence of this research topic, including unregulated shadow banking system, moral hazard, too complex financial structures, and lack of transparency, we find in the literature

test for a difference in means. The average weight of the topic in the crisis period (2008–2012) is significantly higher at the 1% level than in the pre-crisis period (2005–2008). However, the average weight of the topic in the post-crisis period does not differ significantly from the pre-crisis levels, and there is no evidence of persistence in the study of this topic.

7.2.4. A Momentum in the Study of ‘Great Recession’

The topic of ‘*Great Recession*,’ which is related to the effects of the financial crisis on the real economy, hardly existed before the financial crisis, as it was ranked 414th in 2008. However, our results show a significant structural break in 2010 for the topic, where the Wald-statistic for the topic equals 12.6 (Table 10) and the topic is ranked 19th among all topics in that year (Table 8). Moreover, the average weight of the topic in the crisis period is significantly higher than the weight in the pre-crisis period. The topic differs from the other topics that emerge during, and right-after the crisis, as there is a clear evidence of persistence in its research in the post-crisis period. The topic is ranked 6th among all crisis topics in 2012 and 2014 (Table 8). Moreover, the average weight of the topic in the post-crisis period is higher than in the pre-crisis period, at a statistical significance of 1% (Table 9).

8. Crisis Topics by NBER Research Programs

How did the individual NBER research programs contribute to the study of crisis topics? For example, which program led the research on the new topic of ‘*Repo and Securitization?*’ and which programs were engaged in studying the disappearing topic of ‘*Sudden stop?*’ To answer these types of questions, we match the topics of the research with NBER research programs.

We proceed in two steps. First, we identify crisis WPs as we did above, but here we employ stricter criteria. We define a WP as a ‘crisis WP’ if (1) it includes the word crisis at least once in the first five paragraphs of the introduction, (2) crisis topics comprise at least 10% of the paper, and (3) crisis topics are among the top-three topics of the paper. Applying this definition, the algorithm identified 612 WPs, where 165 WPs were written in the pre-crisis period 1999–2007, and 447 in the post-crisis period 2008–2016.

Next, we add up the weights of each topic for the WPs of each programs, yielding matrices

only few explanations for its decline after 2012. Benmelech et al. (2012) show that adverse selection problems in corporate loan securitizations are less severe than commonly believed. Krishnamurthy et al. (2014) argue that the size of the repo market was too small to trigger a collapse in the financial system.

where the $(i, j)^{\text{th}}$ element shows the sum of the weights of topic i in the WPs of the research program j . By dividing each element by the total sum of weights of a topic (by summing up each row i), we obtain the % of each topic that belongs to each research program. For example, 5% of the topic ‘*Sudden Stop*’ belongs to the WPs of the Monetary Economics program.

Table 11 presents the results of the analysis for the 6 selected NBER programs.²⁹ According to the table, the topics of ‘*Sudden Stop*’ and ‘*Emerging Markets*,’ that almost disappeared in the post-crisis period, were mostly studied by the International Finance and Macro program (62% and 43%, respectively) and by the Economic Fluctuations program (15% and 16%, respectively). In Appendix B, we show that all the 20 papers with the highest weight in this topic belong to the International Finance and Macro program, consistent with this finding. On the other hand, the International Finance and Macro program and the International Trade program are almost the only programs that were engaged in studying the topic of ‘*International Reserves*,’ (52% and 17% respectively), a topic that drew a lot of attention in the post-crisis period. In Appendix B, we show that all the 20 papers with the strongest focus on this topic belong to these two programs.

The topic of ‘*Repo and Securitization*,’ which emerged after the crises, is mostly studied by the Corporate Finance program (37%), Asset Pricing program (24%) and the Monetary Economics program (17%). Just 4% of the topic was studied by the International Finance and Macro program, and only 1% by the International Trade program. These results are confirmed by the analyses in Appendix B, where we show that all the 20 papers with the highest weight in this topic belong to one of the finance programs and none of them belong to the International Finance and Macro program. The topic of ‘*Liquidity*,’ which reappears in the post-crisis period, receives an attention from the Asset Pricing program (32%) and the Corporate Finance program (22%). The International Finance and Macro and the International Trade programs are less engaged in this topic (11% and 1%, respectively).

In sum, the intensive activity of the International Finance and Macro program in the pre-crisis period was focused on studying ‘*Emerging markets*’ and ‘*Sudden Stop*,’ topics that mostly disappeared in the post-crisis period, ‘*International Reserves*,’ a topic that reappears in the post-crisis period, ‘*Sovereign Debt*’ and ‘*Global Crisis*.’ The intensive engagement of the finance-

²⁹ Table 11A in the Appendix, shows the results for the remaining NBER programs.

related programs in the post-crisis period was in studying ‘*Repo and Securitization*,’ a new topic, and ‘*Liquidity*,’ a reemerged topic.

9. Crisis Literature: Pre-Crisis vs. Post-Crisis

To further identify the effect of the 2008 crisis on the academic literature, we apply the LDA method to papers that focus primarily on the crisis research. This analysis helps us understand if and how the structure of the crisis literature has been affected by the 2008–2009 crisis.

Moreover, the analysis contributes to the robustness of the results that focuses on the effect of the crisis on the entire economic literature. Therefore, as in Section 8, we focus only on the 612 “crisis working papers.”

We conduct two complementary LDA analyses, to study the change in the crisis literature. In the first analysis, we identify 20 topics in the 612 crisis WPs. We calculate the average weight of each topic in the pre-crisis period (2005–2008), around and during the crisis period (2009–2012), and in the post-crisis period (2013–2016). Similar to the analysis that is shown in Table 9, we use z -test to compare the average weight of a topic in the pre-crisis period with the average weight during the crisis and the post-crisis periods. In the analysis of the 500 topics which we discussed in Section 7, an increase in the weight of a crisis topic could be at the expense of the non-crisis topics. However, in the current analysis, an increase in the weight of a topic is at the expense of other crisis topics. The 20 topics and the words that belong to each one of them, as identified by the LDA algorithm, are presented in Table 7A in the Appendix. The weights of the topics as well as the results of the z -tests for mean differences between the periods are presented in Table 12.

Similar to the results of the analysis of the crisis topics which we report above for all the NBER WPs that are included in our database, we find that the topic of ‘*Sudden Stop*’ has a negative z -test statistic significant at the 1% level, when we compare between the pre-crisis and the crisis periods, as well as between the pre-crisis and the post-crisis periods. Thus, we see a drop in the study of the topic. A negative z -test statistic, significant at the 1% level, is also observed for the topic of ‘*Emerging Markets*,’ when we compare the period before the crisis and the crisis period, and the period before the crisis and the post-crisis period. Thus, consistent with the results of the analysis for the entire NBER WPs collection in Section 7, we see a persistent decline in the importance of these two topics.

We find a delayed reaction for two topics. The first is ‘*Fiscal and Monetary Policy*.’ The papers that belong to this topic primarily focus on the coordination of fiscal policy and monetary policy in the European Union (Table 7A in the Appendix). There is a positive and statistically significant difference between the average means of the pre-crisis and the post-crisis periods. The second topic of ‘*International Reserves*,’ which exhibits a significant drop in its average weight in the post-crisis period. The papers that belong to this topic, primarily focus on the accumulation of foreign reserves by China.

We find a positive and significant difference between the weights of “*Great Recession*” and “*Repo and Securitization*” in the pre-crisis and the crisis periods. However, similar to the results we reported in the analysis of the crisis literature using all NBER WPs in our database, we find here a positive and statistically significant difference between the pre- and post-crisis periods only for the topic of “*Great Recession*.”

The comparison between the crisis and the post-crisis periods does not indicate any significant change in the weights of the topics. Thus, while the 2008–2009 crisis led to a structural break in the study of crisis-related topics, where the weights of 5 out of the 20 topics had significantly changed between the pre-crisis and the crisis periods, no such change is observed in the post-crisis period. Further, the topics that are related to the crisis, remain relatively stable. This conclusion is supported by the findings that, the average absolute change in the topics’ weight between the pre-crisis and the crisis periods is only 2%, and the absolute average change between the crisis and the post-crisis periods is only 1.4%.

In the second analysis, we divide the crisis WPs into two groups. The first group includes the WPs that were written before the crisis (2005–2008), while the second group includes the WPs that were written after the crisis period (2009–2016). Here the LDA algorithm identified 10 topics for each group of WPs.

In Table 13, we present the topics using the labels we attach to them, along with the 10 most frequent words of each topic (out of 20), in the pre-crisis 1999–2007 period. In Table 14, we do the same for the post-crisis 2008–2016 period. Words that appear only in the pre-crisis or only in the post-crisis period, are indicated in italic. In the tables, the words of each topic are ranked according to their appearance frequency in the topic. For example, the word ‘liquidity’ appears 171 times as part of the liquidity topic in the pre-crisis period.

We find important differences between the two periods. First, a topic that makes a first-time

appearance only in the post-crisis period is ‘*Currency Union*’ in the context of fiscal union and the European Union. Under this topic we find WPs that focus on the weaknesses of the European monetary union, and on the need for a robust common fiscal policy framework which could have alleviated the consequences of the crisis.³⁰ While the EU is getting a lot of attention in the post-crisis period, the topics related to IMF and its restructuring program disappears from the post-crisis topics’ list. This may be a reflection of the view that the institution is less relevant for a debt-crisis of large developed countries, as they may have easier access to more attractive lenders.

The topic of ‘*Sudden Stop*’ which refers to a situation where international capital inflows shrink in emerging markets, creating balance of payment crises, is another important topic that leaves the stage, stopping suddenly in the post-crisis 2008–2016 period.³¹ This finding is consistent with the result we report in section 7, that sudden-stop models are mostly relevant in the context of foreign exchange management in small open economies, but not in the US or in a large currency union. Indeed, the topic of ‘*Monetary Policy*’ in the post-crisis period does not include such words as ‘currency,’ ‘exchange,’ and ‘emerging.’ Instead, the topic now refers to the ‘central bank’ and its activities.

Two new additional topics that enter the stage in the post-crisis 2008–2016 period, are ‘*Great Recession*,’ touching the ways of achieving economic recovery and growth, and the ‘*Federal Reserve*,’ whose activities now appear as a separate topic. While in the pre-crisis period the monetary policy is mostly focused on determining the short-term interest rates, in the post-crisis period the Fed implemented a quantitative easing program through purchasing long-term debt and risky assets from financial institutions. It is not surprising therefore, that the new topic refers now to the balance sheet of the Fed and to its responsibility in preventing a bank run.

The issues related to the activities of the central bank, relate also to the changing nature of the banking topics as a result of the crisis. In the post-crisis period, these refer to the short-term debt (repo) that were used to finance long-term mortgage-backed securities and other collateralized loans. These topics were not among the leading crisis’ topics in the pre-crisis period.

³⁰ See, for example, Aizenman (2012), Bordo et al. (2011), Conesa and Kehoe (2014), Razin and Rosefielde (2012), and Vegh and Vuletin (2014).

³¹ See, for example, Calvo (1998), Calvo and Mendoza (2000), Durdo and Mendoza (2004), Mendoza (2006, 2008), and Mendoza and Smith (2002).

10. Summary and Conclusions

The global financial crisis of 2007–2009 turned out to be the most serious economic crisis since the Great Depression. There is a consensus that the research community as a whole was not engaged enough in the study of the crisis before it occurred. In this paper, we use LDA topic modelling method, to offer quantitative measures of the nature and the intensity of the overall academic efforts to study and understand the crisis, as reflected in the 14,270 NBER WPS, published before, during, and after the crisis.

In doing so, we make three specific contributions. First, we assess the aggregate scholarly efforts by quantifying the intensity and the speed of the NBER scholars' response as the crisis was evolving. Second, we analyze the variation across NBER programs to assess which scholars in which fields and subfields of economics and finance have led the change. Third, we assess how the popularity of and the attention to different crisis-related research topics evolved over time, and how the different NBER groups were involved in developing and pushing forward these research agenda, topics, and ideas.

We find that the volume of crisis-related WPs is counter-cyclical, lagging financial instability indexes. The WPs written by Monetary Economics, Asset Pricing, and Corporate Finance program members of the NBER, hardly refer to “crisis” in the pre-crisis period. However, as the crisis developed, their study efforts of crisis-related issues increase rapidly, focusing on the links between ‘*Repo and Securitization*’ and the crisis. In contrast, WPs in macroeconomics programs refer extensively to “crisis” in the pre-crisis period. These WPs abandon the topics of ‘*Sudden Stop*’ and ‘*Emerging Markets*’ with the crisis development and focus more on the topic of ‘*International Reserves.*’

Overall, our findings are consistent with the critical arguments made by both the general public and the academics that some (but not all) macroeconomics and finance scholars, indeed failed to see the coming of the financial crisis. However, the results of our analyses suggest that as soon as the financial crisis began to unravel, the academic community responded quite dramatically to the crisis, and to the public criticism that the crisis has generated. Many academic economists and finance scholars, working in the relevant areas of research, stopped studying relatively less relevant topics, and switched their focus and efforts to studying and understanding the crisis, its causes and its consequences.

This endogenous response of the academic world to the 2008 financial crisis is counter to the

popular perception and the public image of the academic finance and economics scholars, which argues that the academic economists are disconnected from real economies and that their scholarship has nothing to do with real life events and circumstances (see, for example, Georgalakis 2017).

This is also the conclusion of Reis (2018, p. 147): “Within days or weeks of the failure of Bear Sterns or Lehman Brothers, economists provided diagnoses of the crisis, and central banks and finance ministries implemented aggressive measures to minimize the damage, all of which were heavily influenced by economic theory. Economic concepts such as asymmetric information, bank runs, the role of liquidity, saturating the market for reserves, and forward guidance at the zero lower-bound, all provided concrete interpretations of the crisis, suggestions for policies, and discussion of trade-offs. The economy did not die, and a Great Depression was avoided, in no small part due to the advances in economics over many decades.”

Our study has limitations, because of our primary focus on three questions—“who, when, and how.” The first question we ask is, *who* are the NBER scholars that study the crisis-related topics? To answer the question, we focus on the NBER research groups, and try to assess the research focus and the research agenda of each group.

The second question we ask is, when did the NBER scholars begin studying the crisis-related topics? To answer the question, we consider the pre-crisis period, the period when the crisis was still evolving, and the post-crisis period, and in each sub-period we characterize and document the scholarly efforts of the different NBER program members. The goal of these analyses is to identify the program members’ timing in relation to the crisis, and say something about their lead-lag relationship, such as which program members led the efforts, which program members were more forward-looking, and which program members were more late comers.

The third question we ask is, how did the NBER scholar study the crisis-related topics? To answer the question, we identify the specific crisis-related topics the NBER members chose to study, which crisis-related topics got a particular attention, and what topics the scholars end up abandoning.

Given our focus on these three questions, we note two important questions which we did not address, and which future work should address. The first question future work should address is, “where,” that is, *where* were the crisis-related topics studied? In the paper we focus exclusively on the NBER member scholars. While NBER scholars are leading scholars, there are other

leading scholars, who are not affiliated with the NBER. We suspect that many of these scholars have also contributed to the crisis-related literature and to the crisis-understanding efforts. These include scholars at universities and colleges in many countries, scholars at central banks (such as at the research departments and at the financial stability divisions at Federal Reserve Banks, at the ECB, and at other countries' central banks), and scholars at research institutes and independent think tanks. The relevant work of all these and other scholars were excluded from our analysis.

The second question our study did not address is related to “why,” that is, *why* some topics were studied but not others? Why did some topics emerge as central to understanding the crisis dynamics, while other topics were considered less important? While we briefly touch these points sporadically in the paper, we do not make a systematic effort of doing so, because the extent of the analyses that is required to answer these and related questions, would be beyond the scope of this paper. Some studies already attempt to do precisely that, such as Bernanke (2018), and Goldstein and Razin (2015). Given the importance of this question however, more such studies are needed, and we believe future research should therefore address these issues, perhaps using this study as a stepping stone.

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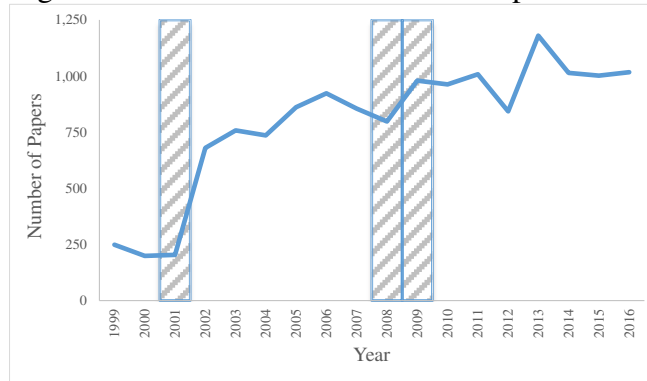
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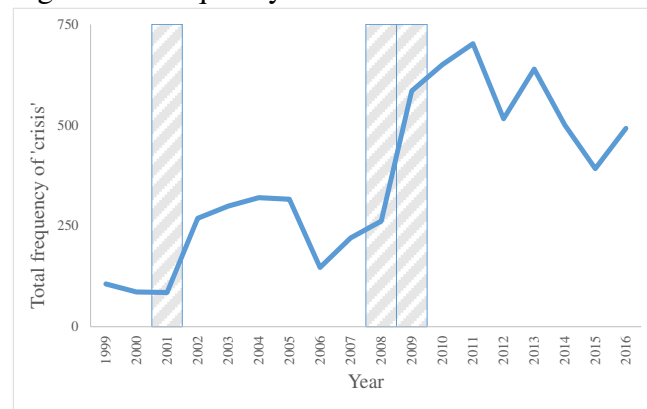
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Figure 1. Total number of NBER WPs published



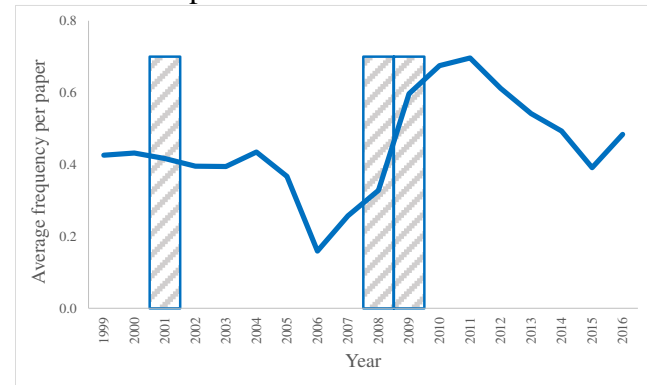
Note: Shaded areas indicate NBER recession periods.

Figure 2a. Frequency of the word ‘crisis/crises’



Note: The figure presents the total number of appearances of the word crisis in the first five paragraphs of the introductory section of all NBER WPs. Shaded areas indicate NBER recession periods.

Figure 2b. Average frequency of the word ‘crisis/crises’ per WP



Note: The figure presents the average number of appearances of the word crisis in the first five paragraphs of the introductory section, per WP. Shaded areas indicate NBER recession periods.

Figure 2c. The % of crisis WPs and Wald test statistic for structural breaks

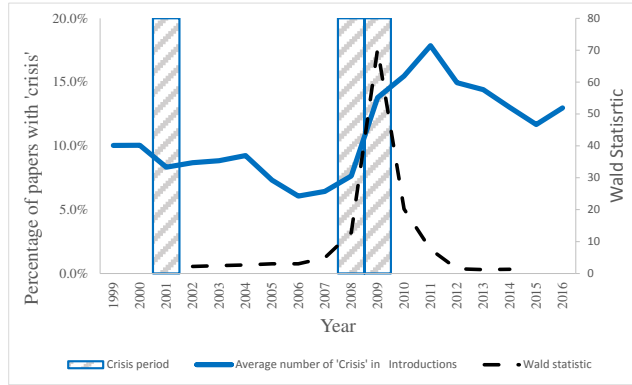


Figure 3a. The % of crisis WPs and 2-year lagged Composite Indicator of Systemic Stress

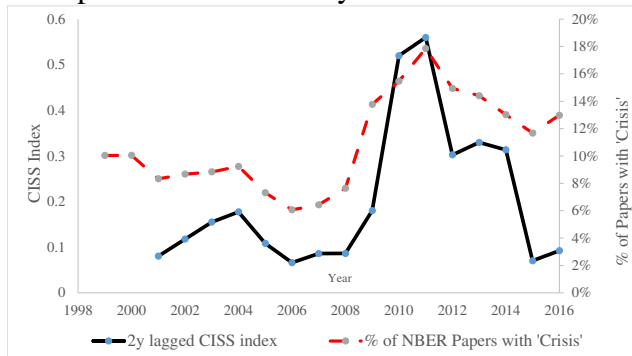


Figure 3b. The % of crisis WPs and 2-year lagged Kansas City Financial Stress Index

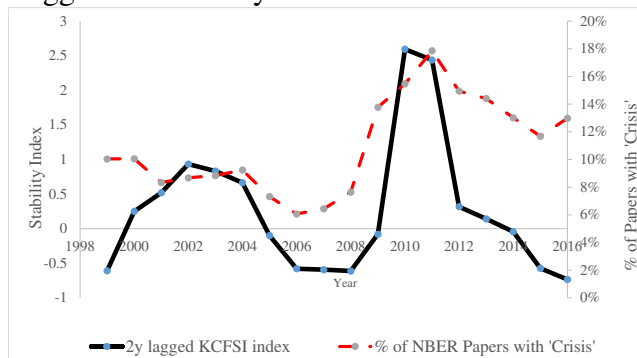


Figure 3c. Frequency of crisis WPs and 2-year lagged CISS index

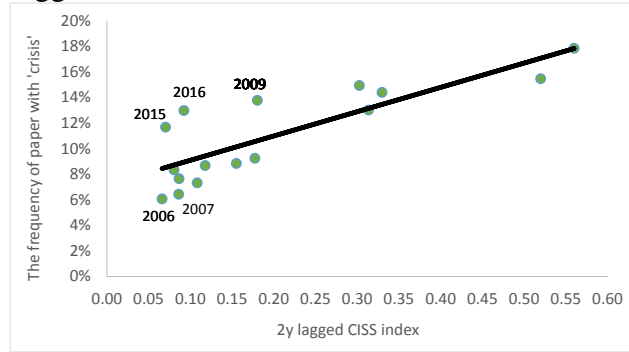


Figure 4. Average annual % of crisis WPs by NBER research programs

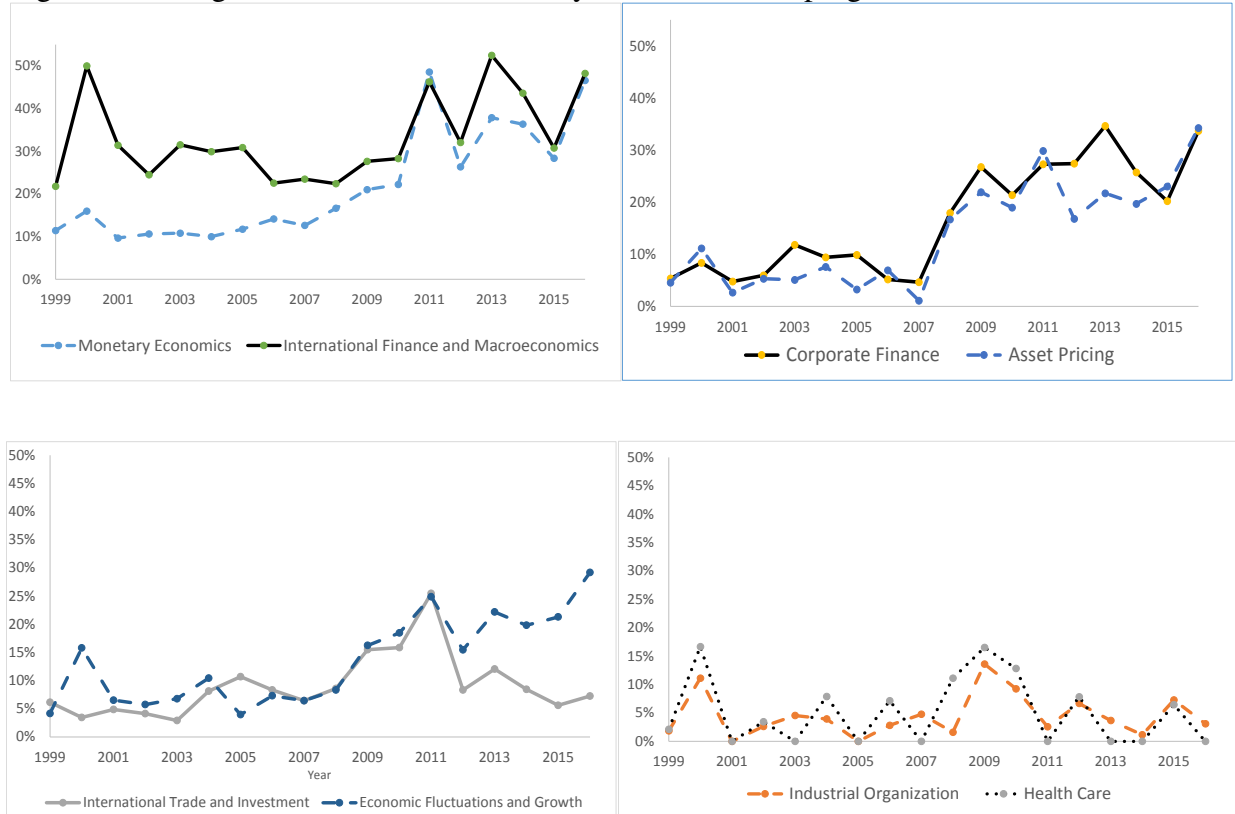
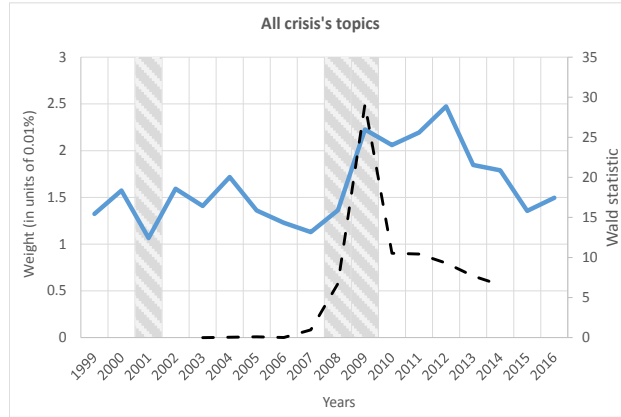


Figure 5. Average weight of all crisis topics and the Wald statistic time series (1999–2016)

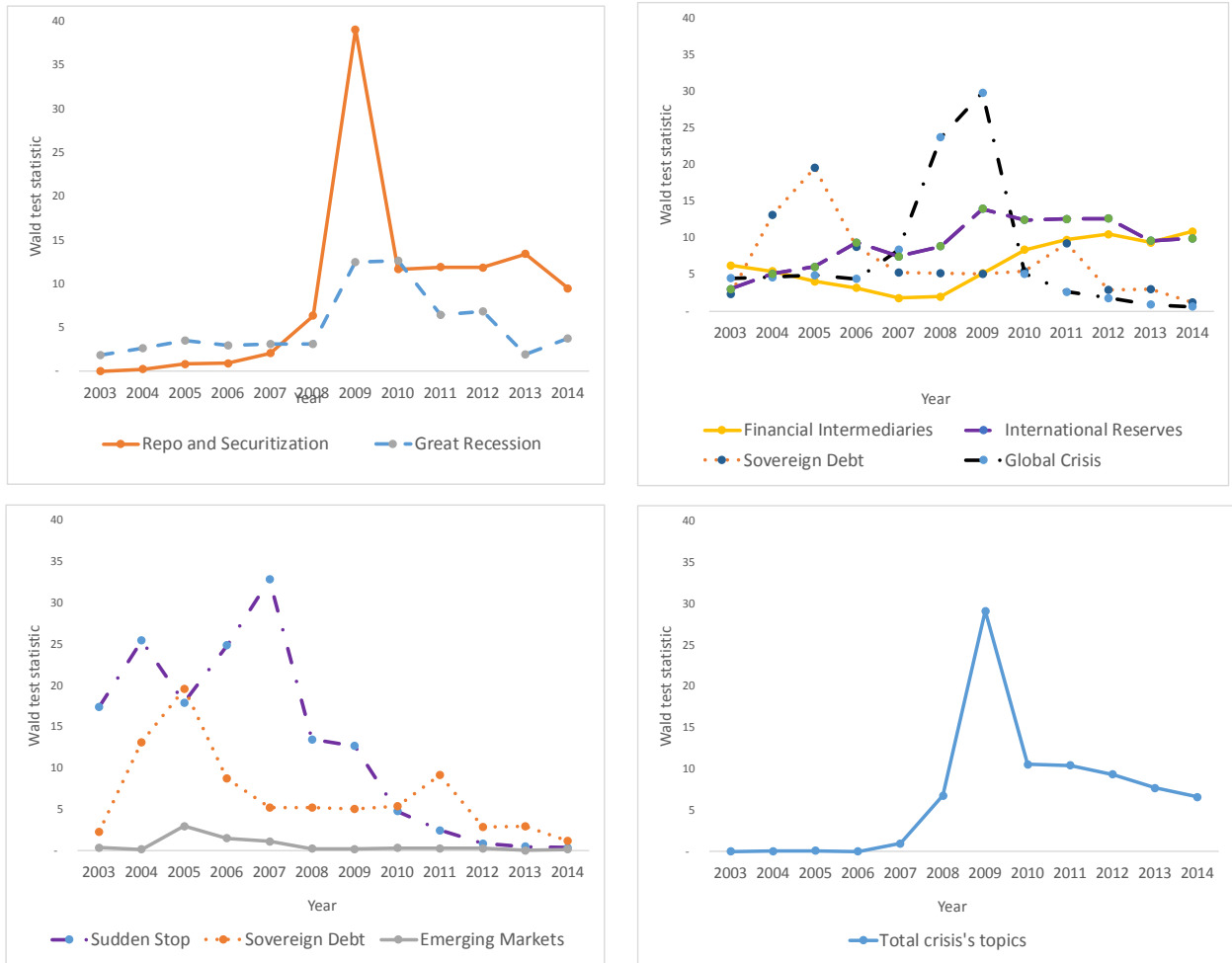


Note: The figure shows the sum of the weights of all 9 topics with the word ‘crisis’ out of the 500 topics that were identified by the LDA algorithm for the abstracts of the entire database of NBER WPs published between 1999 and 2016 (solid line). We also present the annual Wald test statistic for the sum of all crisis’ topics for the period between 2003 and 2014 (dashed line).

Figure 6. The average annual weight of the 9 crisis topics, 1999–2016



Figure 7. The Wald test statistic time series for 9 crisis topics, 2003–2014



Note: The figure presents the annual Wald statistic for different crisis' topics for the period between 2003 and 2014. First, the abstracts of the NBER WPs that were published between 1999 and 2016 were analyzed using LDA, yielding 500 topics. Each topic contains 20 words. Next, we calculate the average weight of a topic in a WP for each year, and finally we calculate the Wald test statistic for known structural breaks for each year.

Table 1. NBER WPs, descriptive statistics, 1999–2016

Panel A: Descriptive statistics for all WPs	Monetary Economics	Int. Trade	Corporate Finance	Asset Pricing	Int. Finance and Macro	Economic Fluctuations and Growth	All WPs
Average number of WPs	109.90	106.61	104.06	117.83	127.72	191.28	98.8
Average number of WPs before 2008	80.10	96.89	77.78	96.67	109.00	145.11	71.1
Average number of WPs after 2008	139.80	116.33	130.33	139.00	146.44	237.44	132.7
<i>t</i> -test for mean-difference	20.70	6.10	17.52	13.27	11.90	25.54	54.9

Table 2. NBER crisis WPs, descriptive statistics, 1999–2016

	Monetary Economics	Int. Trade	Corporate Finance	Asset Pricing	Int. Finance and Macro	Economic Fluctuations and Growth	All WPs
Average % of crisis WPs	21.7%	9.0%	16.7%	13.9%	33.2%	13.5%	11.4%
Min. % during 1999–2016	9.7%	2.9%	4.7%	1.1%	21.8%	4.0%	6.1%
Max. % during 1999–2016	48.6%	25.5%	34.6%	34.2%	52.5%	29.2%	17.9%
Average % before 2008	11.9%	6.1%	7.3%	5.3%	29.6%	7.5%	8.3%
Average % after 2008	31.6%	11.9%	26.1%	22.5%	36.9%	19.5%	13.5%
(% after)/(% before)	2.65	1.95	3.57	4.24	1.24	2.6	1.62
<i>z</i> -test for mean-difference	11.04***	4.49***	11.68***	12.30***	3.70***	10.74***	9.95***
% out of all crisis WPs	26.4%	10.6%	19.1%	18.1%	46.8%	28.5%	100.0%
Number of crisis WPs	468	189	361	323	737	510	1,632

*** Significant at $p < 0.01$

Table 3. Wald test statistic for structural breaks for the annual frequency of WPs with word crisis for selected NBER programs

	Monetary Economics	Int. Trade	Corporate Finance	Asset Pricing	Int. Finance and Macro	Economic Fluctuations and Growth	All WPs
Estimated break point	2011	2012	2008	2008	2011	2009	2009
Sup-Wald (<i>QLR</i>) test statistic	10.8	18.78	14.01	14.86	7.88	13.04	70.36
<i>p</i> -value	6.00%	0.21%	1.75%	1.21%	22.00%	2.67%	0.00%
Known break point at 2008							
Sup-Wald (<i>QLR</i>) test statistic	5.77	7.47	14.01	14.86	5.31	9.31	20.19
$p > \chi^2$	5.58%	2.38%	0.09%	0.06%	7.00%	0.95%	0.00%

Table 4. Regressions of the annual % of crisis WPs on indexes of financial stability

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
Intercept	0.072*** (8.08)	0.10*** (12.31)	0.09*** (13.9)	0.076*** (26.34)
2-year lagged CISS index	0.19*** (5.44)			0.013*** (6.2)
2-year lagged KCFSI index		0.019** (2.47)		
Dummy for post-2008			0.06*** (5.5)	0.06*** (14.3)
$p > F, p > \chi^2$	0.01%	2.53%	0.01%	0.00%
R^2	0.68	0.28	0.66	0.96

t-test statistics are shown in parentheses.

Table 5. Regressions of the annual % of crisis WPs on the annual % of all NBER crisis WPs, by research program

	Monetary Economics	Int. Trade	Corporate Finance	Asset Pricing	Int. Finance and Macro	Economic Fluctuations and Growth
Intercept	-10.20 (-1.54)	-2.75 (-0.82)	-10.91** (-2.18)	-11.22** (-2.24)	15.20** (2.16)	-6.64* (-1.73)
Slope	2.92*** (5.05)	1.08*** (3.67)	2.52*** (5.75)	2.30*** (5.24)	1.65*** (2.68)	1.84*** (5.50)

Note: The figures in the parentheses are the *t*-test statistics. *** $p < 0.01$, ** $p < 0.05$, * $p < 0.10$.

Table 6. Number of crisis topics the LDA algorithm identifies for different values of α and K

		Document-topic density (α)					
		0.5%	1%	5%	10%	20%	50%
Number of topics (K)	250	7	7	4	2	1	1
	500	11	9	7	4	1	1
	750	15	13	8	5	3	1
	1,000	13	13	7	7	4	3

Table 7. The 9 crisis topics identified by the LDA algorithm, and the top-10 words in each topic

Crisis Topic	Top-10 Words in Each Topic									
International Reserves	reserv 253	<i>crisi</i> 129	intern 110	countri 105	financi 87	emerg 76	extern 74	debt 62	accumul 58	manag 51
Financial Intermediaries	financi 1,069	market 214	develop 177	sector 173	intermediari 106	economi 106	bank 84	financ 76	institut 71	<i>crisi</i> 60 (14)
Sudden Stop	stop 209	sudden 188	revers 95	capit 74	account 55	current 41	inflow 35	foreign 30	<i>crisi</i> 28	probabl 24
Liquidity	liquid 619	asset 247	market 126	illiquid 97	price 61	increas 52	provid 49	lead 46	trade 41	<i>crisi</i> 33 (13)
Sovereign Debt	debt 847	default 192	govern 117	sovereign 111	countri 83	borrow 81	domest 57	creditor 50	<i>crisi</i> 50	repay 43
Emerging Markets	market 323	countri 321	emerg 300	economi 192	develop 165	advanc 93	capit 40	imf 35	strong 34	<i>crisi</i> 26 (13)
Great Recession	recess 381	great 311	depress 130	recoveri 118	declin 109	downturn 73	larg 72	period 71	econom 64	<i>crisi</i> 39 (17)
Global Crisis	<i>crisi</i> 1,176	financi 612	bank 155	global 107	market 86	system 84	countri 68	emerg 64	paper 62	recent 55
Repo and Securitization	loan 97	secur 80	securit 68	collater 66	market 63	<i>crisi</i> 60	financi 51	credit 49	repo 46	facil 46

Note: The figure presents the top 10 words of crisis' topics for a corpus that includes all abstracts of the NBER WPs published in 1999–2016. First, the abstracts of the WPs that were published between 1999 and 2016 were analyzed using LDA, yielding 500 topics. Each topic contains 20 words. Out of the 500 topics, 9 contain the word 'crisis' and we present the words of these topics. The table shows the most frequent words of each topics as well as the frequency of the words in a topic. In case that the word 'crisis' is not a part of the 10 most frequent words, we replace it with the 10th word and show in brackets the rank of the word crisis within the topics.

Table 8. Annual rank of the average weight of the crisis topics, 1999–2016

Year	International Reserves	Financial Intermediaries	Sudden Stop	Liquidity	Sovereign Debt	Emerging Markets	Great Recession	Global Crisis	Repo and Securitization
1999	392	208	349	61	151	203	317	12	482
2000	256	221	450	244	127	33	219	9	366
2001	397	105	409	358	119	149	363	27	446
2002	123	30	247	135	43	179	207	58	415
2003	385	81	251	287	39	62	290	57	494
2004	192	54	32	114	53	42	233	118	493
2005	264	92	50	298	137	203	387	72	325
2006	77	94	88	224	240	165	317	302	390
2007	181	86	260	202	119	242	241	218	442
2008	198	139	181	72	99	187	414	25	423
2009	53	66	477	32	193	269	71	1	40
2010	77	47	465	67	210	219	19	5	65
2011	74	36	468	135	50	180	25	1	70
2012	169	38	375	145	89	176	6	1	29
2013	103	35	400	164	61	238	18	34	193
2014	123	116	456	120	88	328	6	19	335
2015	427	179	442	266	25	198	29	33	371
2016	175	135	426	114	74	343	23	55	223

Table 9. The average weights of NBER WPs for the pre-crisis period (2005–2008), for the immediate post-crisis period (2009–2012), and for the post-crisis period (2013–2016)

Panel A. The pre-crisis period (2005–2008) and the immediate post-crisis period (2009–2012)

	Int. Reserves	Fin. Interm.	Sudden Stop	Liquidity	Sovereign Debt	Emerging Market	Great Recession	Global Crisis	Repo & Securit.	All Topics
Av 2005–2008	0.17	0.18	0.21	0.14	0.16	0.12	0.05	0.18	0.05	1.27
Av 2009–2012	0.23	0.27	0.03	0.22	0.21	0.10	0.30	0.56	0.31	2.23
Av 2005–2012	0.20	0.23	0.12	0.18	0.19	0.11	0.18	0.38	0.18	1.77
z-test for mean-diff	0.6	0.7	-2.3**	0.8	0.5	-0.2	2.5***	2.7***	2.6***	3.1***

Panel B. The immediate post-crisis period (2009–2012) and the post-crisis period (2013–2016)

	Int. Reserves	Fin. Interm.	Sudden Stop	Liquidity	Sovereign Debt	Emerging Market	Great Recession	Global Crisis	Repo & Securit.	All Topics
Av 2009–2012	0.23	0.27	0.03	0.22	0.21	0.10	0.30	0.56	0.31	2.23
Av 2013–2016	0.14	0.17	0.03	0.15	0.28	0.07	0.36	0.32	0.12	1.63
Av 2009–2016	0.19	0.22	0.03	0.18	0.24	0.08	0.33	0.44	0.21	1.92
z-test for mean-diff	-1.0	-1.0	0.0	-0.7	0.7	-0.6	0.4	-1.8*	-2.0**	-2.1**

Panel C. The pre-crisis period (2005–2008) and the post-crisis period (2013–2016)

	Int. Reserves	Fin. Interm.	Sudden Stop	Liquidity	Sovereign Debt	Emerging Market	Great Recession	Global Crisis	Repo & Securit.	All Topics
Av 2005–2008	0.17	0.18	0.21	0.14	0.16	0.12	0.05	0.18	0.05	1.27
Av 2013–2016	0.14	0.17	0.03	0.15	0.28	0.07	0.36	0.32	0.12	1.63
Av 2005–2008 & 2013–2016	0.16	0.18	0.11	0.15	0.23	0.09	0.22	0.26	0.08	1.47
z-test for mean-diff	-0.3	-0.1	-2.4***	0.1	1.0	-0.7	2.7***	1.2	1.0	1.3

Note: *** $p < 0.01$, ** $p < 0.05$, * $p < 0.10$. The averages are reported in units of 0.01%.

Table 10. Wald test statistic for structural breaks for the annual weight of each of the 9 crisis topics

	Wald Test Statistic around the Crisis Time			sup-Wald Test		
	2007	2008	2009	Estimate Break Point	Sup-Wald (QLR) Statistic	p-value
International Reserves	7.5**	8.9**	14.0***	2009	14.0	1.78%
Financial Intermediaries	1.8	2.0	5.1*	2012	10.5	0.53%
Sudden Stop	32.8***	13.5***	12.7***	2007	32.8	0.00%
Liquidity	4.2	6.2**	2.7	2008	6.2	4.57%
Sovereign Debt	5.2*	5.2*	5.1*	2005	19.6	0.14%
Emerging Markets	1.1	0.3	0.2	2005	3.0	88.96%
Great Recession	3.1	3.1	12.5***	2010	12.6	3.19%
Global Crisis	8.3	23.7***	29.8***	2009	29.8	0.00%
Repo and Securitization	2.1	6.4**	39.1***	2009	39.1	0.00%
All NBER WPs	1.0	6.7**	29.1***	2009	29.1	0.00%

Note: The figures in the parentheses are the *t*-statistics. *** $p < 0.01$, ** $p < 0.05$, * $p < 0.10$. T

Table 11. Weights of the 9 crisis topics by NBER research programs

	Monetary Economics	Int. Trade	Corporate Finance	Asset Pricing	Int. Finance and Macro	Econ. Fluct. and Growth
International Reserves	9%	17%	2%	3%	52%	7%
Financial Intermediaries	13%	4%	17%	11%	25%	18%
Sudden Stop	5%	5%	1%	3%	62%	15%
Liquidity	15%	1%	22%	32%	11%	12%
Sovereign Debt	13%	2%	8%	5%	38%	18%
Emerging Markets	10%	7%	4%	4%	43%	16%
Great Recession	18%	2%	4%	5%	14%	27%
Global Crisis	19%	4%	11%	8%	33%	12%
Repo and Securitization	17%	1%	37%	24%	4%	8%
Average	13%	5%	12%	11%	31%	15%

Table 12. The average weights of 20 different topics in crisis WPs for the pre-crisis period (2005–2008), in the immediate post-crisis period (2009–2012), and in the post-crisis period (2013–2016)

Topic name	Pre-Crisis: Av 2005–2008	Crisis: Av 2009–2012	Post-Crisis: Av 2013–2016	z-test for mean-diff: pre-crisis vs crisis	z-test for mean-diff: pre-crisis vs post-crisis	z-test for mean-diff: crisis vs post-crisis
International Finance	8.0	8.9	7.7	0.3	–0.1	–0.4
Sudden Stops	9.5	3.2	2.3	–3.0 ***	–4.4 ***	–0.5
Repo & Securitization	2.0	6.6	3.4	2.1**	0.7	–1.3
Liquidity	3.6	4.4	4.5	0.4	0.4	0.1
Crisis Event	3.2	5.3	4.7	1.0	0.6	–0.3
Government Bailout	4.7	2.7	4.4	–1.2	–0.1	1.1
History of Crisis	6.1	6.3	5.4	0.1	–0.3	–0.4
International Reserves	7.3	4.0	3.1	–1.5	–2.2 **	–0.5
Monetary Policy	2.3	4.5	6.8	1.1	1.9 *	1.2
Systemic Risk	3.7	5.7	4.3	0.9	0.3	–0.6
Exchange Rates	4.5	3.4	4.1	–0.6	–0.2	0.4
Great Recessions	2.3	5.4	7.8	1.5	2.2 **	1.1
Economic Shocks	6.8	6.5	9.4	–0.1	0.9	1.2
Economic Growth	5.1	5.0	4.6	–0.0	–0.2	–0.2
Sovereign Debt	4.1	4.5	7.8	0.2	1.5	1.6
Banks	3.7	5.1	4.9	0.7	0.5	–0.1
Household Credit	2.7	3.4	4.1	0.4	0.7	0.4
Asset Pricing	4.9	6.2	4.1	0.6	–0.3	–0.9
Emerging Markets	9.9	4.0	3.5	–2.6 ***	–3.3 ***	–0.3
Currency Markets	5.6	5.0	3.2	–0.3	–1.2	–0.8

Note: The table presents the average weights of topics identified by the LDA algorithm for 612 crisis WPs. We define a WP as a ‘crisis WP’ if (1) it includes the word crisis at least once in the first five paragraphs of the introduction, (2) crisis topics comprise at least 10% of the paper, and (3) crisis topics are among the top-three topics of the paper. Applying this definition, the algorithm identified 524 WPs, where 99 WPs were written in the pre-crisis period 2005–2009, 226 in the immediate post-crisis period 2009–2012, and 197 WPs in the post-crisis period 2008–2016. An increase in a topic weight with respect to the initial period is marked in boldface.

Table 13. The 10 crisis topics identified by the LDA algorithm and the most frequent words in each topic, pre-crisis period (1999–2007)

Topic	The most frequent words in the topic									
Sudden Stop	<i>sudden</i> 357	<i>stop</i> 337	model 133	larg 125	<i>current</i> 112	capit 106	account 105	emerg 94	economi 92	market 87
Capital Flow	capit 403	countri 300	growth 180	flow 163	develop 155	account 142	trade 121	<i>liber</i> 104	global 92	<i>current</i> 91
Banking System	bank 443	system 103	liquid 69	institut 69	risk 65	loan 54	deposit 49	sector 39	fund 37	<i>bailout</i> 35
Foreign Debt	currenc 161	countri 128	debt 98	state 92	market 81	period 69	global 66	recent 61	<i>origin</i> 59	<i>differ</i> 57
Monetary Policy	rate 340	polici 282	exchang 220	emerg 143	monetari 141	currenc 112	regim 98	economi 96	domest 95	interest 79
Real Economy	market 219	countri 148	<i>differ</i> 88	find 70	<i>effect</i> 64	time 59	<i>aggreg</i> 54	emerg 54	household 53	incom 50
International Reserves	reserv 277	intern 198	countri 134	foreign 79	increas 77	develop 72	<i>volatil</i> 63	<i>asian</i> 59	<i>east</i> 54	manag 52
IMF Restructuring	market 134	borrow 98	bond 97	countri 96	intern 87	imf 86	privat 69	<i>lender</i> 52	issu 50	<i>restructur</i> 43
Liquidity	asset 236	liquid 171	Price 139	market 138	investor 92	<i>guarante</i> 76	trade 70	<i>agent</i> 68	risk 59	<i>hazard</i> 45
Sovereign Debt	debt 400	default 146	govern 105	sovereign 92	model 80	increas 63	level 59	rate 59	interest 56	risk 52

Note: The corpus includes 165 NBER WPs. Words that do not appear in the pre-crisis period are marked in *italic*. The hyper-parameter values are set at $\alpha = 0.1$ and $\beta = 0.1$.

Table 14. The 10 crisis topics identified by the LDA algorithm and the most frequent words in each topic, post-crisis period (2008–2016)

Topic	The most frequent words in the topic									
Currency Union	fiscal 206	currenc 181	<i>union</i> 117	<i>euro</i> 116	countri 114	<i>european</i> 108	govern 88	state 87	<i>area</i> 82	rate 80
Monetary Policy	polici 740	monetari 317	rate 188	interest 158	model 156	<i>view</i> 153	economi 147	central 127	<i>bubbl</i> 123	real 121
Credit Boom	system 245	economi 223	credit 223	countri 185	<i>boom</i> 169	bank 166	<i>advanc</i> 159	<i>unit</i> 158	world 152	episod 147
Sovereign Debt	debt 1,312	default 382	govern 361	sovereign 314	public 250	bond 171	borrow 168	domest 145	privat 142	countri 127
Liquidity	asset 736	market 525	liquid 426	price 392	risk 321	investor 251	valu 172	increas 172	<i>return</i> 157	<i>equiti</i> 142
Great Recession	<i>recess</i> 413	<i>great</i> 306	Growth 255	rate 203	<i>percent</i> 187	<i>declin</i> 183	<i>recoveri</i> 175	incom 149	<i>gdp</i> 148	output 145
Global Markets	countri 802	global 433	Intern 423	market 420	capit 377	emerg 327	develop 303	foreign 252	economi 251	reserv 234
Systemic Risk	model 593	shock 314	sector 292	risk 235	system 191	capit 171	<i>literatur</i> 158	economi 157	measur 154	cost 152
Federal Reserve	bank 1,208	<i>federal</i> 308	reserv 237	central 217	liquid 156	system 142	fund 140	deposit 133	provid 112	balanc 94
Banking System	bank 398	credit 373	Loan 340	firm 308	<i>securit</i> 290	rate 258	<i>corpor</i> 219	<i>mortgag</i> 197	<i>repo</i> 111	<i>collater</i> 110

Note: The corpus includes 447 NBER WPs. Words that do not appear in the post-crisis period are marked in *italic*. The hyper-parameter values are set at $\alpha = 0.1$ and $\beta = 0.1$.

Online Supplementary Appendix

Academic Scholarship in Light of the 2008 Financial Crisis: Textual Analysis of NBER Working Papers

Daniel Levy^a

Department of Economics, Bar-Ilan University, Ramat-Gan 5290002, ISRAEL

Department of Economics, Emory University, Atlanta, GA 30322, USA

RCEA, University of Bologna, Rimini, ITALY

Daniel.Levy@biu.ac.il

Tamir Mayer

Graduate School of Business Administration, Bar-Ilan University, Ramat Gan, 5290002, ISRAEL

Tamirmayer@gmail.com

Alon Raviv

Graduate School of Business Administration, Bar-Ilan University, Ramat Gan, 5290002, ISRAEL

Alon.Raviv@biu.ac.il

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^a Corresponding author

APPENDIX A
SUPPLEMENTARY TABLES

Table 1A. NBER WPs, descriptive statistics for non-selected NBER programs, 1999–2016

	DAE	CH	AG	ED	TWP	DEV	PR	POL	LE	EC	IO	PE	EEE	HE	IS	All
Average number of WPs	82	80	71	87	40	63	90	71	68	32	85	188	69	106	187	793
Average number of WPs before 2008	65	52	46	54	26	26	57	36	51	26	58	146	31	76	137	607
Average number of WPs after 2008	99	108	96	119	55	99	122	105	85	38	112	231	106	135	236	978
<i>t</i> -test for difference in mean	12	21	18	24	11	25	23	26	12	4	20	26	27	20	30	55
Average number of WPs	82	80	71	87	40	63	90	71	68	32	85	188	69	106	187	793

Table 2A. Crisis WPs for non-selected NBER programs, descriptive statistics, 1999–2016

	DAE	CH	AG	ED	TWP	DEV	PR	POL	LE	EC	IO	PE	EEE	HE	IS	All
Average % of crisis WPs	13	3	6	3	5	6	4	6	5	5	4	5	5	4	4	11
Min. % during 1999–2016	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	1	6
Max. % during 1999–2016	21	12	17	17	17	17	11	17	15	17	14	11	17	10	8	18
Average % before 2008	10	3	4	3	4	4	3	4	4	4	4	4	5	3	3	8
Average % after 2008	17	4	8	4	5	7	6	9	7	6	5	7	5	5	5	14
(% after)/(%before)	2	2	2	1	1	2	2	2	2	1	2	2	1	2	2	2
z-test for mean-difference	4	2	3	0	1	2	3	3	2	1	2	4	0	2	3	10
% out of all crisis WPs	12	3	5	3	2	4	4	5	4	2	4	11	4	4	7	100
Number of crisis WPs	204	66	88	60	51	75	85	100	79	49	83	188	72	83	128	1,632

Table 7A. 20 topics identified by the LDA algorithm for the 612 crisis WPs

International Finance		Sudden Stops		Repo & Securitization		Liquidity		Crisis Event	
Words	Freq.	Words	Freq.	Words	Freq.	Words	Freq.	Words	Freq.
differ	0.08	sudden	0.14	loan	0.12	liquid	0.26	failur	0.08
find	0.08	stop	0.12	market	0.11	asset	0.11	event	0.08
data	0.06	account	0.10	secur	0.08	market	0.10	lehman	0.06
recent	0.06	current	0.09	credit	0.07	trade	0.05	view	0.06
literatur	0.06	countri	0.05	securit	0.06	risk	0.05	led	0.06
studi	0.06	capit	0.05	collater	0.06	demand	0.04	caus	0.05
measur	0.05	larg	0.04	mortgag	0.05	illiquid	0.04	hous	0.05
import	0.05	revers	0.04	lend	0.05	investor	0.04	septemb	0.05
evid	0.05	deficit	0.04	bond	0.05	money	0.04	mani	0.05
empir	0.05	emerg	0.04	rate	0.05	time	0.04	start	0.05
time	0.05	net	0.04	repo	0.04	secur	0.03	effect	0.05
countri	0.05	economi	0.03	corpor	0.04	increas	0.03	bankruptci	0.04
effect	0.04	asset	0.03	agenc	0.03	suppli	0.02	time	0.04
sever	0.04	global	0.03	borrow	0.03	treasuri	0.02	octob	0.04
impact	0.04	extern	0.03	structur	0.03	bond	0.02	believ	0.04
perform	0.04	imbal	0.03	fund	0.03	hold	0.02	feder	0.04
relat	0.04	collaps	0.03	role	0.03	yield	0.02	rescu	0.04
term	0.04	price	0.03	inform	0.03	spread	0.02	belief	0.04
factor	0.04	adjust	0.02	origin	0.03	agent	0.02	bernank	0.04
larg	0.04	market	0.02	subprim	0.03	particip	0.02	interest	0.04

Government Bailout		History of Crisis		International Reserves		Fiscal & Monetary Policy		Systemic Risk	
Words	Freq.	Words	Freq.	Words	Freq.	Words	Freq.	Words	Freq.
borrow	0.08	system	0.13	reserv	0.22	polic	0.22	risk	0.15
govern	0.08	state	0.11	countri	0.12	monetari	0.13	firm	0.11
guarante	0.07	unit	0.07	intern	0.11	fiscal	0.09	system	0.09
bailout	0.06	world	0.06	china	0.05	central	0.07	credit	0.09
reform	0.06	gold	0.06	accumul	0.04	inflat	0.05	sector	0.08
polic	0.06	histor	0.05	increas	0.04	stabil	0.05	regul	0.06
imf	0.06	centuri	0.05	hold	0.04	respons	0.04	institut	0.05
intern	0.06	histori	0.05	trade	0.04	union	0.04	market	0.05
hazard	0.05	standard	0.04	global	0.03	target	0.04	govern	0.04
privat	0.05	recent	0.04	foreign	0.03	credibl	0.04	measur	0.03
moral	0.04	year	0.04	hoard	0.03	inat	0.03	economi	0.03
problem	0.04	global	0.04	export	0.03	rule	0.03	corpor	0.03
issu	0.04	depress	0.04	adjust	0.03	area	0.03	bank	0.03
institut	0.04	bubbl	0.04	larg	0.03	euro	0.02	manag	0.02
commit	0.04	great	0.04	cost	0.03	govern	0.02	claim	0.02
intervent	0.04	center	0.03	extern	0.03	time	0.02	liabil	0.02
lender	0.03	discuss	0.03	exchang	0.03	countri	0.02	analysi	0.02
cost	0.03	section	0.03	associ	0.03	forecast	0.02	capit	0.02
provid	0.03	event	0.03	asian	0.03	provid	0.02	inform	0.02
program	0.03	today	0.03	develop	0.02	scal	0.02	contract	0.02

Exchange Rates		Great Recession		Economic Shocks		Economic Growth		Sovereign Debt	
Words	Freq.	Words	Freq.	Words	Freq.	Words	Freq.	Words	Freq.
rate	0.29	recess	0.15	model	0.28	growth	0.19	debt	0.36
exchang	0.11	great	0.12	shock	0.10	develop	0.12	default	0.10
interest	0.10	recoveri	0.07	equilibrium	0.05	economi	0.09	govern	0.08
polici	0.09	declin	0.06	constraint	0.04	countri	0.08	sovereign	0.07
economi	0.05	output	0.06	product	0.04	gdp	0.06	public	0.05
regim	0.05	percent	0.05	trade	0.04	sector	0.06	bond	0.04
real	0.05	unemploy	0.05	show	0.04	advanc	0.05	matur	0.03
increas	0.03	depress	0.05	optim	0.04	year	0.04	countri	0.03
monetari	0.03	labor	0.05	friction	0.04	world	0.04	domest	0.03
higher	0.03	period	0.04	studi	0.04	rate	0.03	borrow	0.03
macroeconom	0.02	market	0.04	economi	0.04	percent	0.03	extern	0.03
low	0.02	follow	0.03	effect	0.04	decad	0.03	risk	0.02
inflat	0.02	downturn	0.03	invest	0.03	level	0.02	shortterm	0.02
effect	0.02	year	0.03	dynam	0.03	increas	0.02	fiscal	0.02
open	0.02	episod	0.03	literatur	0.03	sinc	0.02	ratio	0.02
currenc	0.02	shock	0.03	lead	0.03	period	0.02	privat	0.02
peg	0.02	employ	0.03	gener	0.03	averag	0.02	level	0.02
stabil	0.02	chang	0.03	theori	0.03	invest	0.02	creditor	0.02
combin	0.02	real	0.03	develop	0.03	share	0.02	spread	0.01
level	0.02	rate	0.03	agent	0.03	neg	0.02	tax	0.01

Banks		Household Credit		Asset Pricing		Emerging Market		Currency Market	
Words	Freq.	Words	Freq.	Words	Freq.	Words	Freq.	Words	Freq.
bank	0.48	credit	0.19	asset	0.16	capit	0.17	market	0.16
central	0.05	boom	0.11	price	0.15	countri	0.11	currenc	0.14
deposit	0.04	household	0.10	market	0.10	market	0.10	countri	0.12
fund	0.04	incom	0.08	investor	0.06	intern	0.08	global	0.09
lend	0.04	hous	0.05	capit	0.05	emerg	0.07	emerg	0.08
reserv	0.03	show	0.04	fund	0.05	flow	0.06	shock	0.05
feder	0.03	mortgag	0.04	equiti	0.04	trade	0.04	dollar	0.04
run	0.03	busi	0.04	stock	0.04	develop	0.04	contagion	0.04
institut	0.03	cycl	0.04	return	0.04	domest	0.04	foreign	0.03
loan	0.03	increas	0.03	valu	0.03	foreign	0.03	intern	0.03
provid	0.03	aggreg	0.03	larg	0.03	global	0.03	period	0.03
system	0.02	leverag	0.03	risk	0.03	control	0.03	integr	0.03
swap	0.02	borrow	0.03	sale	0.03	economi	0.03	spread	0.02
oper	0.02	larg	0.03	expect	0.03	inflow	0.03	bank	0.02
balanc	0.02	data	0.03	invest	0.03	latin	0.03	factor	0.02
line	0.02	expans	0.03	portfolio	0.03	liber	0.03	exposur	0.02
fed	0.02	save	0.03	crash	0.02	asian	0.03	origin	0.02
insur	0.02	invest	0.03	increas	0.02	open	0.02	develop	0.02
failur	0.02	tax	0.03	manag	0.02	extern	0.02	devalu	0.02
larg	0.02	rise	0.02	sell	0.02	argentina	0.02	sever	0.02

Note: The table presents the words of the 20 topics identified by the LDA algorithm for the 612 crisis WPs. We define a WP as a ‘crisis WP’ if (1) it includes the word crisis at least once in the first five paragraphs of the introduction, (2) crisis topics comprise at least 10% of the paper, and (3) crisis topics are among the top-three topics of the paper. Applying this definition, the algorithm identified 612 WPs, where 189 WPs were written in the pre-crisis period 1999–2009, 226 during the crisis period 2009–2012, and 197 in the post-crisis period 2008–2016.

Table 11A. Weights (in %) of crisis topics by NBER research programs for non-selected programs

Research topics	DAE	CH	AG	ED	TWP	DEV	PR	POL	LE	EC	IO	PE	EEE	HE	IS	All
International Reserves	3	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	1	3
Financial Intermediaries	3	0	0	0	0	1	2	1	2	0	1	1	0	0	1	3
Sudden Stop	4	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	2	0	1	0	4
Liquidity	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	1	1
Sovereign Debt	4	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	7	0	0	0	4
Emerging Markets	6	0	0	1	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	3	1	0	1	6
Great Recession	7	0	1	0	0	0	4	1	0	0	0	3	0	1	9	7
Global Crisis	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	2	0	0	1	9
Repo and Securitization	3	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	1	3

Abbreviations used to denote the NBER research programs

AE	Development of the American Economy
CH	Children
AG	Aging
ED	Economics of Education
TWP	Technical Working Papers
DEV	Development Economics
PR	Productivity, Innovation, and Entrepreneurship
POL	Political Economy
LE	Law and Economics
EC	Health Care
IO	Industrial Organization
PE	Public Economics
EEE	Environment and Energy Economics
IFM	International Finance and Macroeconomics
HE	Health Economics
IS	Labor Studies
EFG	Economic Fluctuations and Growth
All	All NBER WP

APPENDIX B

TOP-20 WPs WITH THE HIGHEST PROBABILITY, FOR EACH CRISIS WP

1. Top-20 WPs on the topic of ‘Global Crisis’

	Title	Year	% of topic	% of crisis topics	Programs	Authors
1	The Center and the Periphery: The Globalization of Financial Turmoil	2003	57%	57%	1. IFM	Kaminsy and Reinhart
2	The Great Depression Analogy	2009	52%	52%	1. ME 2. DAE	Bordo and James
3	U.S. Banks, Crises, and Bailouts: From Mexico to LTCM	2000	49%	49%	1. CF 2. IFM 3. ME	Stulz
4	Over The Cliff: From the Subprime to the Global Financial Crisis	2010	47%	49%	1. EFG 2. ME	Mishkin
5	Three Branches of Theories of Financial Crises	2013	47%	47%	1. IFM	Goldstein and Razin
6	Transmission of the U.S. Subprime Crisis to Emerging Markets: Evidence on the Decoupling-Recoupling Hypothesis	2009	46%	68%	1. IFM	Dooley and Hutchison
7	The Flight from Maturity	2014	45%	45%	1. AP 2. ME 3. CF 4. EFG	Gorton, Metrick, and Xie
8	The Global Financial Crisis of 2007-08: Is it Unprecedented?	2010	44%	54%	1. DAE 2. ME	Bordo, Landon-Lee
9	Deciphering the Liquidity and Credit Crunch 2007-08	2008	44%	57%	1. IFM 2. ME 3. CF 4. EFG 5. AP	Brunnermeier
10	Fiscal and Financial Crises	2016	42%	42%	1. DAE 2. IFM 3. ME	Bordo and Meissner
11	An Historical Perspective on the Crisis of 2007-2008	2008	41%	44%	1. ME	Bordo
12	Getting up to Speed on the Financial Crisis: A One-Weekend-Reader's Guide	2012	41%	41%	1. AP 2. ME 3. CF	Gorton and Metrick
13	Crises in the Global Economy from Tulips to Today: Contagion and Consequences	2002	40%	40%	1. DAE 2. IFM	Neal and Weidenmier
14	The Credit Crisis: Conjectures about Causes and Remedies	2009	39%	39%	1. IFM 2. ME 3. CF 4. AP	Diamond and Rajan
15	Bubbles, Financial Crises, and Systemic Risk	2012	39%	42%	1. CF 2. ME 3. AP	Brunnermeier and Oehmke

16	Some Reflections on the Recent Financial Crisis	2012	38%	52%	1. AP 2. ME 3. CF 4. EFG	Gorton
17	How the Subprime Crisis Went Global: Evidence from Bank Credit Default Swap Spreads	2009	37%	37%	1. ITI 2. ME 3. EFG	Eichengreen, Mody, Nedeljkovic, and Sarno
18	Crises Now and Then: What Lessons from the Last Era of Financial Globalization	2002	36%	64%	1. DAE 2. IFM 3. ME	Eichengreen and Bordo
19	Financial Crises and Economic Activity	2009	36%	43%	1. ME	Cecchetti, Kohler, and Upper
20	A Fiscal Union for the Euro: Some Lessons from History	2011	36%	43%	1. DAE 2. ME	Bordo, Markiewicz, and Jonung

2. Top-20 WPs on the topic of ‘Sudden Stops’

	Title	Year	% of topic	% of crisis topics	Programs	Authors
1	Sudden Flight and True Sudden Stops	2006	46%	46%	1. IFM	Rothenberg and Warnock
2	Are Asset Price Guarantees Useful for Preventing Sudden Stops?: A Quantitative Investigation of the Globalization Hazard-Moral Hazard Tradeoff	2005	45%	45%	1. IFM	Durdo and Mendoza
3	On the Empirics of Sudden Stops: The Relevance of Balance-Sheet Effects	2004	41%	41%	1. IFM	Calvo, Izquierdo, and Mejia
4	Sudden Stops and Output Drops	2005	40%	40%	1. IFM 2. EFG	Chari, Kehoe, and McGratten
5	Sudden Stops: Determinants and Output Effects in the First Era of Globalization, 1880-1913	2007	36%	43%	1. IFM 2. DAE	Bordo, Cavallo, and Meissner
6	Margin Calls, Trading Costs, and Asset Prices in Emerging Markets: The Financial Mechanics of the 'Sudden Stop' Phenomenon	2002	35%	47%	1. IFM	Mendoza and Smith
7	Putting the Brakes on Sudden Stops: The Financial Frictions-Moral Hazard Tradeoff of Asset Price Guarantees	2004	33%	40%	1. IFM	Mendoza and Durdo
8	Fear of Sudden Stops: Lessons from Australia and Chile	2004	33%	33%	1. EFG 2. IFM	Caballero, Cowan, and Kearns
9	Systemic Sudden Stops: The Relevance Of Balance-Sheet Effects And Financial Integration	2008	32%	35%	1. IFM	Calvo, Izquierdo, and Mejia
10	Sudden Stops, Financial Crises and Leverage: A Fisherian Deflation of Tobin's Q	2008	31%	31%	1. IFM	Mendoza
11	Lessons From the Debt-Deflation Theory of Sudden Stops	2006	30%	30%	1. IFM	Mendoza

12	Sudden Stops, the Real Exchange Rate, and Fiscal Sustainability: Argentina's Lessons	2003	28%	28%	1. IFM	Calvo, Izquierdo, and Talvi
13	Capital Flow Bonanzas: An Encompassing View of the Past and Present	2008	28%	41%	1. IFM	Reinhart and Reinhart
14	Sudden Stops and IMF-Supported Programs	2006	27%	35%	1. IFM	Eichengreen, Gupta, and Mody
15	Monetary Unions, External Shocks and Economic Performance: A Latin American Perspective	2006	27%	27%	1. IFM	Edwards
16	Does Openness to Trade Make Countries More Vulnerable to Sudden Stops, Or Less? Using Gravity to Establish Causality	2004	27%	30%	1. DEV 2. IFM	Frankel and Cavallo
17	Quantitative Implication of A Debt-Deflation Theory of Sudden Stops and Asset Prices	2004	26%	28%	1. IFM	Mendoza and Smith
18	Endogenous Sudden Stops in a Business Cycle Model with Collateral Constraints: A Fisherian Deflation of Tobin's Q	2006	26%	27%	1. DEV 2. IFM	Mendoza
19	Financial Openness, Sudden Stops and Current Account Reversals	2004	25%	26%	1. IFM	Edwards
20	Crises and Sudden Stops: Evidence from International Bond and Syndicated-Loan Markets	2008	25%	50%	1. IFM	Kaminsky

3. Top-20 WPs on the topic of 'Financial Intermediaries'

	Title	Year	% of topic	% of crisis topics	Programs	Authors
1	Financial Development in 205 Economies, 1960 to 2010	2013	47%	47%	1. CF 2. DEV 3. EFG 4. IFM	Čihák, Demirgüç-Kunt, Feyen, and Levine
2	Financial Intermediation	2002	45%	53%	1. CF	Gorton and Winton
3	Growing Up to Financial Stability	2007	45%	45%	1. IFM 2. ME 3. DAE	Bordo
4	International Channels of Transmission of Monetary Policy and the Mundellian Trilemma	2016	39%	39%	1. IFM 2. ME 3. AP	Rey
5	Industry Growth and Capital Allocation: Does Having a Market- or Bank-Based System Matter?	2002	38%	38%	1. CF 2. AG	Beck and Levine
6	The Redistributive Effects of Financial Deregulation	2013	36%	36%	1. CF 2. DEV 3. IFM	Korinek and Kreamer

7	The Great Reversals: The Politics of Financial Development in the 20th Century	2001	35%	35%	1. CF	Rajan and Zingales
8	Risk Bearing, Implicit Financial Services and Specialization in the Financial Industry	2008	33%	33%	1. PR	Wang and Basu
9	Financial Sector Regulation and Reforms in Emerging Markets: An Overview	2010	31%	39%	1. IFM	Prasad
10	The Integrated Financial and Real System of National Accounts for the United States: Does It Presage the Financial Crisis?	2009	30%	34%	1. IFM 2. ME 3. AP	Palumbo and Parker
11	Legal Institutions and Financial Development	2004	29%	29%	1. CF 2. LE	Beck and Levine
12	What Matters for Financial Development? Capital Controls, Institutions, and Interactions	2005	29%	35%	1. IFM	Chinn and Ito
13	The Financial Sector in Burundi	2012	28%	28%	1. IFM	Nkurunziza, Ndikuman, and Nyamoya
14	China's Financial System: Opportunities and Challenges	2012	27%	37%	1. CF	Allen, Qian, Zhang and Zhao
15	Two Centuries of Finance and Growth in the United States, 1790-1980	2016	27%	40%	1. DAE	Bodenhorn
16	Macroeconomics with Financial Frictions: A Survey	2012	27%	38%	1. CF 2. DEV 3. EFG 4. IFM 5. AP	Brunnermeier, Eisenbach, and Sannikov
17	Credit Constraints, Heterogeneous Firms, and International Trade	2008	27%	27%	1. ITI	Manova
18	Transparency, Risk Management and International Financial Fragility	2003	26%	26%	1. CF	Draghi, Giavazzi, and Merton
19	Risky Investments with Limited Commitment	2013	26%	26%	1. IFM	Cooley, Marimon, and Quadrini
20	Financial Development and Output Growth in Developing Asia and Latin America: A Comparative Sectoral Analysis	2015	26%	26%	1. DEV	Aizenman, Jinjarak, and Park

4. Top-20 WPs on the topic of 'International Reserves'

	Title	Year	% of topic	% of crisis topics	Programs	Authors
1	For a Few Dollars More: Reserves and Growth in Times of Crises	2014	57%	57%	1. IFM	Bussière, Cheng, Chinn and Lisack

2	Financial Versus Monetary Mercantilism-Long-run View of Large International Reserves Hoarding	2006	57%	57%	1. IFM 2. ITI	Aizenman and Lee
3	International Reserves Management and the Current Account	2006	54%	59%	1. IFM 2. ITI	Aizenman
4	The financial crisis and sizable international reserves depletion: From 'fear of floating' to the 'fear of losing international reserves'?	2009	51%	51%	1. IFM 2. ITI	Aizenman and Sun
5	Large Hoarding of International Reserves and the Emerging Global Economic Architecture	2007	51%	53%	1. ITI	Aizenman
6	International Reserve Holdings with Sovereign Risk and Costly Tax Collection	2002	46%	50%	1. ITI	Aizenman and Marion
7	The High Demand for International Reserves in the Far East: What's Going On?	2002	45%	45%	1. IFM	Aizenman and Marion
8	International Reserves: Precautionary versus Mercantilist Views, Theory and Evidence	2005	44%	54%	1. IFM 2. ITI	Aizenman and Lee
9	International Reserves Management and Capital Mobility in a Volatile World: Policy Considerations and a Case Study of Korea	2004	43%	49%	1. IFM 2. ITI	Aizenman, Lee, and Rhee
10	International Reserves and the Global Financial Crisis	2011	41%	41%	1. IFM	Dominguez, Hashimoto, and Ito
11	The Social Cost of Foreign Exchange Reserves	2006	38%	48%	1. IFM	Rodrik
12	Financial Stability, the Trilemma, and International Reserves	2008	38%	38%	1. IFM	Obstfeld, Shambaugh, and Taylor
13	International Reserves and Rollover Risk	2012	35%	35%	1. IFM 2. EFG	Bianchi, Hatchondo, and Martinez
14	International reserves and swap lines: substitutes or complements?	2010	37%	37%	1. IFM 2. ITI	Aizenman, Jinjara, and Park
15	Liquidity and Foreign Asset Management Challenges for Latin American Countries	2014	37%	43%	1. IFM	Aizenman and Riera-Crichton
16	China's Growth, Stability, and Use of International Reserves	2013	35%	35%	1. IFM	Aizenman, Jinjara, and Marion
17	Financial Instability, Reserves, and Central Bank Swap Lines in the Panic of 2008	2009	35%	34%	1. IFM	Obstfeld, Shambaugh, and Taylor
18	Exchange Market Pressure and Absorption by International Reserves: Emerging Markets and Fear of Reserve Loss During the 2008-09 Crisis	2010	35%	34%	1. IFM 2. EFG	Aizenman and Hutchison
19	Optimal Reserves in Financially Closed Economies	2016	34%	42%	1. IFM	Jeanne and Sandri

20	Sterilization, Monetary Policy, and Global Financial Integration	2008	34%	35%	1. IFM	Aizenman and Glick
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5. Top-20 WPs on the topic of ‘Liquidity’

	Title	Year	% of topic	% of crisis topics	Programs	Authors
1	Outside and Inside Liquidity	2009	43%	43%	1. AP 2. CF	Bolton, Santos, and Scheinkman
2	Flight to Quality, Flight to Liquidity, and the Pricing of Risk	2004	43%	43%	1. AP	Vayanos
3	Portfolio Choice with Illiquid Assets	2013	42%	42%	1. AP	Ang, Papanikolaou, and Westerfield
4	Valuing Thinly-Traded Assets	2014	40%	41%	1. AP	Longstaff
5	Predatory Trading	2004	37%	39%	1. AP	Brunnermeier and Pedersen
6	Financial Market Runs	2002	37%	37%	1. AP 2. CF	Bernardo and Welch
7	Market Liquidity and Funding Liquidity	2007	36%	36%	1. AP 2. CF	Brunnermeier and Pedersen
8	Liquidity and Market Crashes	2008	34%	35%	1. AP	Huang and Wang
9	Liquidity, Efficiency and Bank Bailouts	2002	34%	34%	1. CF	Gorton and Huang
10	ManAG Markets for Toxic Assets	2010	32%	32%	1. AP 2. EFG 3. ME	House and Masatlioglu
11	Dynamic Adverse Selection: A Theory of Illiquidity, Fire Sales, and Flight to Quality	2012	32%	38%	1. AP 2. EFG	Guerrieri and Shimer
12	Crisis Resolution and Bank Liquidity	2009	32%	32%	1. CF	Acharya, Shin, and Yorulmazer
13	On the Scholes Liquidation	2009	32%	32%	1. AP	Brown, Carlin, and Lobo
14	Liquidity and Risk Management	2007	30%	31%	1. AP	Garlenu and Pedersen
15	Market Liquidity, Asset Prices and Welfare	2008	29%	29%	1. AP	Huang and Wang
16	Banks' Advantage in Hedging Liquidity Risk: Theory and Evidence from the Commercial Paper Market	2003	28%	29%	1. CF	Gatev and Strahan
17	Illiquid Assets and Optimal Portfolio Choice	2006	28%	28%	1. AP	Schwartz and Tebaldi
18	Liquidity Transformation in Asset Management: Evidence from the Cash Holdings of Mutual Funds	2016	27%	29%	1. AP 2. CF	Chernenko and Sunderam

19	Amplification Mechanisms in Liquidity Crises	2009	26%	52%	1. AP 2. CF 3. ME	Krishnamurthy
20	Leverage and Asset Bubbles: Averting Armageddon with Chapter 11?	2010	26%	40%	3. ME	Miller and Stiglitz

6. Top-20 WPs on the topic of 'Sovereign Debt'

	Title	Year	% of topic	% of crisis topics	Programs	Authors
1	The Pitfalls of External Dependence: Greece, 1829-2015	2015	56%	71%	1. IFM 2. ME	Reinhart and Trebesch
2	Distributional Incentives in an Equilibrium Model of Domestic Sovereign Default	2013	49%	49%	1. IFM 2. ME 3. PE	D'Erasmus and Mendoza
3	Sovereign Debt, Government Myopia, and the Financial Sector	2011	47%	53%	1. IFM 2. ME 3. EFG	Acharya and Rajan
4	A Theory of Debt Maturity: The Long and Short of Debt Overhang	2012	45%	45%	1. AP	Diamond and He
5	The Forgotten History of Domestic Debt	2008	43%	43%	1. IFM 2. PE	Reinhart and Rogoff
6	Debt Intolerance	2003	42%	59%	1. IFM	Reinhart, Rogoff, and Savastano
7	Self-Fulfilling Debt Crises: A Quantitative Analysis	2016	39%	41%	1. IFM 2. EFG	Bocola and Dovis
8	Optimal Domestic (and External) Sovereign Default	2016	39%	39%	1. IFM	D'Erasmus and Mendoza
9	Internal Debt Crises and Sovereign Defaults	2008	39%	39%	1. IFM 2. EFG	Arellano and Kocherlakota
10	Coordination and Crisis in Monetary Unions	2014	38%	43%	1. IFM 2. EFG 3. ME	Aguiar, Amador, Farhi, and Gopinath
11	Tough Policies, Incredible Policies?	2003	37%	38%	1. IFM	Velasco and Neut
12	Crisis and Commitment: Inflation Credibility and the Vulnerability to Sovereign Debt Crises	2013	37%	49%	1. IFM 2. EFG 3. ME	Aguiar, Amador, Farhi, and Gopinath
13	A Brazilian Debt-Crisis Model	2002	36%	36%	1. IFM	Razin and Sadka
14	The Long and the Short of It: Sovereign Debt Crises and Debt Maturity	2014	36%	42%	1. IFM 2. EFG	Fernández and Martin
15	A Brazilian Debt-Crisis	2002	36%	43%	1. IFM	Razin and Sadka
16	Sovereign Debt Markets in Turbulent Times: Creditor Discrimination and Crowding-Out Effects	2013	36%	51%	1. EFG	Broner, Erce, Martin, and Ventura

17	Monetary Policy and Debt Fragility	2014	35%	35%	1. EFG	Cooper and Camous
18	Slow Moving Debt Crises	2013	34%	35%	1. IFM 2. EFG 3. ME	Lorenzoni and Werning
19	The U.S. Debt Restructuring of 1933: Consequences and Lessons	2015	32%	32%	1. AP 2. IFM 3. DAE	Edwards, Longstaff, and Marin
20	The Stock of External Sovereign Debt: Can We Take the Data At 'Face Value'?	2011	32%	32%	1. IFM 2. EFG	Dias, Richmond, and Wright

7. Top-20 WPs on the topic of 'Emerging Markets'

	Title	Year	% of topic	% of crisis topics	Programs	Authors
1	Keeping Capital Flowing: The Role of the IMF	2004	34%	34%	1. IFM	Bordo, Mody, and Oomes
2	Local Currency Bond Markets	2006	30%	34%	1. IFM	Burger and Warnock
3	Terms of Trade Shocks and Fiscal Cycles	2010	29%	29%	1. IFM	Kaminsky
4	Can Inflation Targeting Work in Emerging Market Countries?	2004	29%	32%	1. IFM 2. ME 3. EFG	Mishkin
5	Explaining Foreign Holdings of Asia's Debt Securities: The Feldstein-Horioka Paradox Revisited	2015	26%	32%	1. IFM 2. DEV 3. EFG	Horioka, Terada- Hagiwara, and Nomoto
6	Currency Mismatches, Debt Intolerance and Original Sin: Why They Are Not the Same and Why it Matters	2003	26%	43%	1. IFM	Eichngreen, Hausmann, and Panizza
7	Exchange Rate Regimes and Capital Mobility: How Much of the Swoboda Thesis Survives?	2008	26%	26%	1. IFM	Eichngreen
8	The International Monetary Fund: Its Present Role in Historical Perspective	2000	26%	26%	1. IFM 2. DAE	Bordo and James
9	How Reliable are De Facto Exchange Rate Regime Classifications?	2011	24%	32%	1. IFM	Eichngreen and Razo-Garcia
10	Exchange Rate Regime Durability and Performance in Developing Countries Versus Advanced Economies	2004	23%	24%	1. IFM 2. EFG 3. ME	Husain, Mody, and Rgoff
11	When did the dollar overtake sterling as the leading international currency? Evidence from the bond markets	2012	23%	27%	1. IFM 2. DAE	Chitu, Eichngreen, and Mehl
12	Exchange Rate Regime Choice in Historical Perspective	2003	22%	22%	1. IFM 2. DAE	Bordo
13	Transmission of the U.S. Subprime Crisis to Emerging Markets:	2009	22%	68%	1. IFM	Dooley and Hutchison

	Evidence on the Decoupling-Recoupling Hypothesis					
14	Country Spreads and Emerging Countries: Who Drives Whom?	2003	22%	22%	1. IFM 2. EFG	Uribe and Yue
15	Are Hard Pegs Ever Credible in Emerging Markets? Evidence from the Classical Gold Standard	2009	21%	21%	1. IFM 2. DAE	Mitchener and Weidenmier
16	Inflation Targeting in Emerging Market Economies	2003	21%	21%	1. IFM 2. EFG 3. ME	Fraga, Goldfajn, and Minella
17	Okun's Law: Fit at Fifty?	2013	21%	29%	1. EFG 3. ME	Ball, Leigh, and Loungani
18	Inflation Targeting in Emerging Market Countries	2000	21%	21%	1. IFM 2. EFG 3. ME	Mishkin
19	The Mirage of Exchange Rate Regimes for Emerging Market Countries	2003	21%	21%	1. IFM 2. ME	Calvo and Mishkin
20	Learning From the Doers: Developing Country Lessons for Advanced Economy Growth	2005	20%	20%	1. IFM 2. EFG	Chary and Henry

8. Top-20 WPs on the topic of 'Repo and Securitization'

	Title	Year	% of topic	% of crisis topics	Programs	Authors
1	The Alchemy of CDO Credit Ratings	2009	57%	57%	1. CF	Benmelech and Dlugosz
2	Did Securitization Affect the Cost of Corporate Debt?	2011	55%	55%	1. CF	Nadauld and Weisbach
3	Securitization without Adverse Selection: The Case of CLOs	2011	54%	54%	1. CF	Benmelech, Dlugosz, and Ivashina
4	Sizing Up Repo	2012	48%	53%	1. AP 2. ME 3. CF	Krishnamurthy, Nagel, and Orlov
5	Securitized Banking and the Run on Repo	2009	46%	49%	1. AP 2. ME 3. CF 4. EFG	Gorton and Metrick
6	Unintended Consequences of LOLR Facilities: The Case of Illiquid Leverage	2013	44%	59%	1. AP 2. ME 3. CF	Acharya and Tuckman
7	The Credit Rating Crisis	2009	43%	43%	1. AP 2. ME 3. CF 4. LE	Benmelech and Dlugosz
8	Balance Sheet Adjustments in the 2008 Crisis	2010	42%	60%	1. AP 2. ME	He, Khang, and Krishnamurthy

					3. CF	
9	Tri-Party Repo Pricing	2015	40%	40%	1. AP	Hu, Pan, and Wang
10	The Rise and Fall of Demand for Securitizations	2014	39%	56%	1. AP 2. CF	Chernenko, Hanson, and Sunderam
11	Securitization without risk transfer	2010	38%	44%	1. AP 2. CF	Acharya, Schnabel, and Suarez
12	CMBS Subordination, Ratings Inflation, and the Crisis of 2007-2009	2010	36%	36%	1. AP	Stanton and Wallace
13	The Credit Ratings Game	2009	35%	35%	1. IO 2. CF	Bolton, Freixas, and Shapiro
14	Why Did U.S. Banks Invest in Highly-Rated Securitization Tranches?	2011	35%	35%	1. CF	Erel, Nadauld, and Stulz
15	Adverse Selection, Reputation and Sudden Collapses in Secondary Loan Markets	2010	33%	33%	1. CF 2. EFG	Chari, Shourideh, and Zetlin-Jones
16	An Empirical Analysis of the Fed's Term Auction Facility	2012	32%	32%	1. CF 2. EFG 3. AP	Benmelech
17	Who Ran on Repo?	2012	31%	31%	1. AP 2. ME 3. CF	Gorton and Metrick
18	Fighting Crises	2016	31%	31%	1. AP 2. ME 3. EFG	Gorton and Ordenez
19	Asset Quality Misrepresentation by Financial Intermediaries: Evidence from RMBS Market	2005	30%	31%	1. AP 2. CF 3. LE	Piskorski, Seru, and Witikin
20	Securitization	2012	29%	40%	1. AP 2. ME 3. CF 4. EFG	Gorton and Metrick

9. Top-20 WPs on the topic of 'Great Recession'

	Title	Year	% of topic	% of crisis topics	Programs	Authors
1	Deep Recessions, Fast Recoveries, and Financial Crises: Evidence from the American Record	2012	53%	62%	1. ME 2. DAE	Bordo and Haubrich
2	Reallocation in the Great Recession: Cleansing or Not?	2014	40%	40%	1. IS 2. PR 3. EFG	Foster, Grim, and Haltiwanger
3	The Trend is the Cycle: Job Polarization and Jobless Recoveries	2012	38%	38%	1. IS 2. EFG	Jaimovich and Siu
4	Forecasting the Recovery from the Great Recession: Is This Time Different?	2013	37%	39%	1. EFG 2. ME 3. IFM	Dominguez and Shapiro

5	The Great Recession in the Shadow of the Great Depression: A Review Essay on Hall of Mirrors	2016	37%	37%	1. EFG 2. ME	Ohanian
6	Slow Recoveries: A Structural Interpretation	2012	37%	37%	1. IFM	Gali, Smets, and Wouters
7	Lifecycle Effects of a Recession on Health Behaviors: Boom, Bust, and Recovery in Iceland	2015	35%	40%	1. HC 2. HE	Ásgeirsdóttir, Corman, and Reichman
8	International Recessions	2011	35%	48%	1. IFM 2. EFG	Perri and Quaderini
9	Anticipating the Great Depression? Gustav Cassel's Analysis of the Interwar Gold Standard	2011	34%	34%	1. IFM 2. ME 3. DAE	Irwin
10	How Could Everyone Have Been So Wrong? Forecasting the Great Depression with the Railroads	2002	32%	32%	1. DAE	Landon-Lane, White, and Klug
11	The Great Recession, Decline and Rebound in Household Wealth for the Near Retirement Population	2014	32%	32%	1. AG 2. IS 3. PE	Gustman, Stienmeier, and Tabatabai
12	Stock-Market Crashes and Depressions	2009	32%	33%	1. AP 2. IFM 3. EFG	Barro and Ursúa
13	The Great Depression and the Great Recession: A View from Financial Markets	2015	31%	31%	1. EFG 2. ME 3. AP	Bianchi
14	Endogenous Technology Adoption and R&D as Sources of Business Cycle Persistence	2016	31%	31%	1. IFM 2. ME 3. DAE 4. AP 5. PR	Anzoategui, Comin, Gertler, and Martinez
15	Failing the Test? The Flexible U.S. Job Market in the Great Recession	2013	30%	30%	1. IS	Freeman
16	Reconciling Hayek's and Keynes Views of Recessions	2014	29%	29%	1. EFG	Beaudry, Galizia, and Portier
17	Disentangling the Channels of the 2007-2009 Recession	2012	29%	29%	1. ME 2. EFG	Stock and Watson
18	Sovereigns versus Banks: Credit, Crises, and Consequences	2013	29%	54%	1. DAE 2. IFM 3. ME	Jordà, Schularick, and Taylor
19	A Model of Secular Stagnation	2014	29%	29%	1. ME	Eggertsson, Mehrotra, and Robbins
20	Quantifying the Lasting Harm to the U.S. Economy from the Financial Crisis	2014	28%	29%	1. EFG	Hall