**Vernon L. Smith Young Talent Award 2025**

The Society for Experimental Finance is proud to announce the call for submissions to the 2025 Vernon L. Smith Young Talent Award, awarding two times $4,000 for the best research proposals in finance using experimental methodology. We thank Chapman University for sponsoring the prize in 2025.

**Submission:** Submit the attached form, including Part I, your name, affiliation, and contact details, and Part II, describing your experimental project. Please send your completed application form to [office@expfin.org](mailto:office@expfin.org) with the subject “VSYA25 ‑ the applicant’s name”.

**Deadline**: The submission deadline for proposal submissions is 15 November 2025.

**Requirements:** Your project is eligible for assessment if

* You and your co-authors have received their PhD after 2019 or no PhD yet, are affiliated with a University or other research institution and are SEF members.
* Your project’s research question comes from a finance context, such as financial economics, corporate finance, household finance, or sustainable finance.
* Your proposal describes a proper experiment, with a minimum of two treatments organized as a randomized control trial (no *quasi-experiment*, comparing two distinct groups of participants exposed to the same stimuli, and no *demonstration*, comparing outcomes from one environment/task to theoretical benchmarks).

**Funds:** The funds are earmarked for running the experimental project that was submitted. Any resulting publication must acknowledge funding from the SEF through the VSYA.

**Conference:** We would be happy if the winner would present the project proposal and/or the results at the *Experimental Finance* conference in Toulouse, France, in 2026.

**Open Access:** We expect the resulting publication to be Open Access.

**Decision:** First, we will screen your submission for eligibility. Then, we will forward Part II to the panel. The panel members are Camelia Kuhnen (University of South Carolina), Zwetelina Iliewa (University of Bonn), Tibor Neugebauer (University of Luxembourg), and Olga Rud (University of Stavanger).

A hands holding a trophy

Description automatically generated

**Submission Form VSYA 2025**

**Part I: Will not be shown to reviewers.**

Each author needs to sign the statement. Delete or add authors as you wish.

**Authors**

First Name 1:

Last Name 1:

Email 1:

Affiliation 1:

Statement: I have no PhD yet or received my PhD later than 2019.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

First Name 2:

Last Name 2:

Email 2:

Affiliation 2:

Statement: I have no PhD yet or received my PhD later than 2019.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

First Name 3:

Last Name 3:

Email 3:

Affiliation 3:

Statement: I have no PhD yet or received my PhD later than 2019.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Project ID: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (will be added by SEF)

**Part 2: Will be shown to reviewers.**

Leave no personally identifying information. Any such information will disqualify this submission. Write into the boxes after the colons; the boxes will expand automatically.

# The working title of your project

Title:

Keywords:

JEL-Classification:

# Abstract (Limit: 100 words):

# Research question and hypotheses (Limit: 800 words)

1. State your overall research question(s) and its academic and societal relevance.
2. Briefly embed it in the respective literature.
3. State and describe the necessary dependent (DV, outcome variable) and independent variables (treatment) to answer your research question.
4. Describe the theoretical environment and the predictions for the relationship between the two variables.
5. State your testable hypotheses.

a:

b:

c:

d:

e:

# Experimental design (Limit: 500 words)

Describe your experimental design and how it allows you to elicit the variables to test your hypotheses stated above.[[1]](#footnote-1)

# Sample size, outliers and analysis (Limit: 800 words)

1. What is the envisioned participant pool? (students, socio-economic panels, Prolific,…)
2. How many observations do you need to collect for detecting a meaningful effect size?
3. Describe your rule of outlier detection and how to exclude observations (if any).
4. Specify the analysis you will conduct to test your hypotheses.

a:

b:

c:

d:

# Financial plan (Limit: 300 words)

How will you make use of the funds? Briefly describe the financial plan of your proposal and how it determines your participants’ payment. Of course, you can also include funding from other sources you will tap into for your financial plan in addition to the VSYA.

1. Just to give a simple example: You want to test whether a dark-mode screen (treatment) reduces risk-taking (dependent variable). Hence, you implement the bomb risk elicitation task to measures risk taking, i.e., the number of boxes opened. That task is either shown on a standard screen (white background, black font) or dark-mode screen (black background, white font). [↑](#footnote-ref-1)