Credit Control Rights and Resource Allocation within Firms by Nuri Ersahin, Rustom Irani and Hanh Le

Discussion by Elisabeth Kempf

The University of Chicago, Booth School of Business

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- **Recent view:** Creditor influence occurs much more frequently, e.g., following covenant violations (10-20% of firm-years) (Chava and Roberts (2008), Nini et al. (2012), Ozelge and Saunders (2012))
- Main finding (Nini et al. (2012)): creditor intervention adds value by improving operating performance

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- More broadly: provides direct link between corporate financing and labor policies (see also Falato and Liang (2016))

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Comment I: Identification

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 - ... and may hold only very close to the threshold (>1,000 observations are still a lot)

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 - Orthogonality of covenant violation with other measures of investment opportunities, industry cycles, etc.

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- Baseline result:

	Δ Log(Employment)		
	(1)	(2)	(3)
Covenant violation	-0.068	-0.044	-0.034
	(-3.90)	(-5.54)	(-3.75)
Industry fixed effects	Yes	Yes	No
Year fixed effects	Yes	Yes	Yes
Controls	No	Yes	Yes
Firm fixed effects	No	No	Yes
N	43,480	31,071	31,071

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Creditor Control Rights

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"Census variables are measured as of March 12 each year. For this reason, if a violation occurs at first or second (third or fourth) quarters of year t, we measure the annual change in employment from year t to t+1 (t+1 to t+2)"

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 - Competing hypotheses and their implications for the sustainability of the value creation?
 - 2 Can you use the data to explore why creditors add value over and above shareholders and boards and when (vs. Falato and Liang (2016))?
 - Do creditors have superior turnaround experience ("worst-case-experts?")? Do they have expertise with establishments of certain type, industries or geographies?

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