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Borrowing beyond Borders: Foreign Assets, Lender Choice, and Loan Pricing in the Syndicated Bank Loan Market

Joel F. Houston, Jennifer Itzkowitz, Andy Naranjo

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## **ACCEPTED MANUSCRIPT**

# Borrowing beyond Borders: Foreign Assets, Lender Choice, and Loan Pricing in the Syndicated Bank Loan Market

Joel F. Houston<sup>a</sup>, Jennifer Itzkowitz<sup>b</sup>, and Andy Naranjo<sup>c</sup>

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#### Abstract

This paper examines the ability of firms to overcome cross-country barriers to borrowing through foreign asset connections. We find that firm-level foreign assets are an important mechanism in reducing the boundary between borrowers and lenders and thereby enhancing capital access in the syndicated loan market. Our results suggest that firms with foreign assets are more likely to select a foreign lead lender and that the corresponding loans have better pricing terms. And, more specifically, we find that the location of the foreign assets strongly predicts the foreign lender's location. These results support the hypothesis that foreign presence helps reduce information barriers that arise across borders.

Key words: Syndicated loans, multinational firms, loan pricing, foreign assets, integration, international banking

JEL Classification: F23, F34, F36, G01, G15, K40

Correspondence Information: <sup>a</sup>John B. Hall Professor of Finance, <u>joel.houston@warrington.ufl.edu</u>, Tel: (352)392-7546, Warrington College of Business, PO Box 117168, Gainesville, FL 32611-7168; <sup>b</sup>Associate Professor, <u>jennifer.itzkowitz@shu.edu</u>, Tel: (973)761-9103, Stillman School of Business, 400 South Orange Ave, South Orange, NJ 07079; <sup>c</sup>Emerson/Merrill Lynch Professor of Finance & Chairman of the Department of Finance, Insurance, and Real Estate, <u>andy.naranjo@warrington.ufl.edu</u>, Tel: (352) 392-3781, Warrington College of Business, PO Box 117168, Gainesville, FL 32611-7168.

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