Accepted Manuscript

Title: Do creditors price firms' environmental, social and governance risks?

Author: Elias Erragragui

PII: S0275-5319(17)30455-5
DOI: http://dx.doi.org/doi:10.1016/j.ribaf.2017.07.151
Reference: RIBAF 841

To appear in: *Research in International Business and Finance*

Received date: 26-9-2015
Revised date: 30-10-2016
Accepted date: 6-7-2017

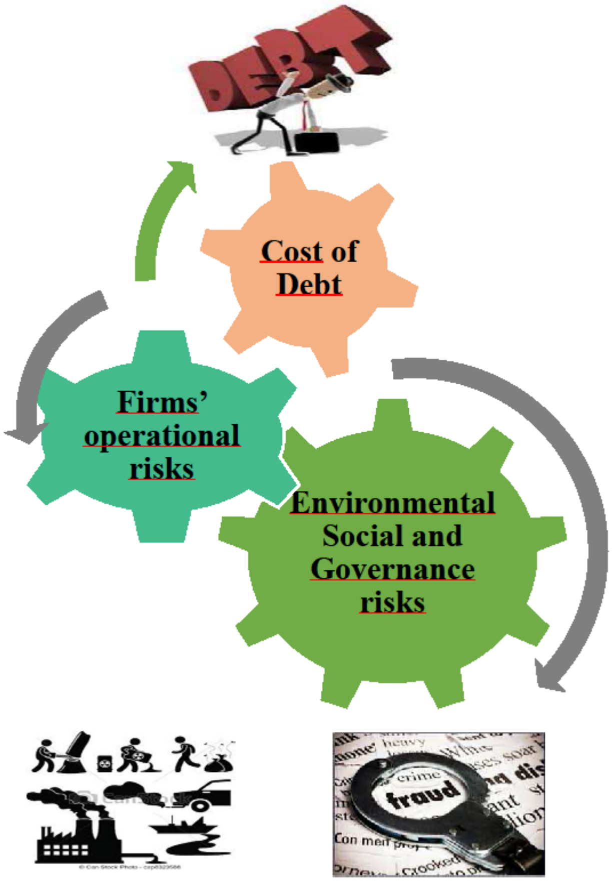
Please cite this article as: {http://dx.doi.org/

Do creditors price firms' Environmental, Social and Governance risks?

Corresponding and single author: Elias Erragragui

Function and organization: Assistant Professor, Kedge Business School
Address : rue Antoine Bourdelle Domaine de Luminy BP 921 13 288 Marseille Cedex 9 – France
Email : elias.erragragui@kedgebs.com,
Tel. +33 (0) 491 827 324 – Fax. +33 (0) 491 827 983

Graphical abstract



Abstract:
The relationship between Corporate Social Performance (CSP) and firm value has received a growing attention in recent academic literature. Despite the rich contributions it has led to, few studies attempted to investigate the link between CSP and firms' credit risk. This research fills this gap and empirically examines the relationship through which CSP impacts firms' cost of debt. Using KLD social ratings, the study isolate specific constituents of firms' CSP found to have operational implications in creditors' risk perception. Observing a panel of 214 U.S firms from December 2000 to December 2011, the results show that only few constituents of CSP actually matters in creditor's perception of firms' risks. Our prime results show that environmental concerns increase firms' cost of debt while governance concerns have no impact on it. Secondarily, the results also confirm that environmental and governance strengths reduce firms' cost of debt as demonstrated in prior works. Our findings thus reveal