

Dissertation Seminar **FINTECH**

Academic Year: **2017/2018**

Semester: **2nd**

Instructor(s): **João Freire de Andrade**

Max. Number of Students: **4**

Seminar Description:

This seminar is designed for students who plan to research about the disruption of the financial sector. Banks and insurance companies are facing one of the most pressured moments of the industry history. After a financial and credibility crisis, the drivers of this pressure are not only clients seeking for innovation and convenience, but also regulators. Artificial intelligence, blockchain, cloud computing and the rise of a mobile first generation are some of the enablers but also drivers of a new reality that is already unbundling the financial sector as we know it

Seminar Content:

This seminar comprises three major components. The first component is an overview of the Fintech landscape and the open issues. The second component exposes the different possible structures and methodologies, pointing out the most suitable for each type of master dissertation. On the third component students will be asked to present their current work and comment on their peer's work. In each session, students will be given a list of tasks that need to be fulfilled until the following session. Students need to be present in every session.

Seminar Objectives:

This workshop aims to help students doing research and writing their master thesis. The seminar objective is supporting students to understand the problems and challenges that Fintech is bringing to the financial sector. Students should apply the correct research methodologies with the aim of yielding conclusions academically and managerially relevant.



Bibliography / Recommended Textbook(s) / Additional Readings:

Books:

- When Tech Meets Finance: A Roadmap for Digital Banking Transformation, by Vicente Quesada.
- The FINTECH Book, by Susanne Chisti and Janos Barberis

Studies:

- The State of the Financial Services Industry 2017 TRANSFORMING FOR FUTURE VALUE

<http://www.oliverwyman.com/content/dam/oliver-wyman/v2/publications/2017/jan/the-state-of-the-financial-services-industry-2017.pdf>

- Fintech Pulse

<https://assets.kpmg.com/content/dam/kpmg/xx/pdf/2017/07/pulse-of-fintech-q2-2017.pdf>

Open Resources:

- <https://banknxt.com/>
- <https://thefinanser.com/>

Note: More literature will be given during the seminar.

Biography:

João Freire de Andrade is the head of BiG Start Ventures, an early-stage Venture Capital investing in startups innovating in the fields of finance (FinTech), insurance (InsurTech) and cybersecurity. The geographical focus is Lisbon, Berlin and London, but it is open to startups from other locations. BiG Start Ventures provides entrepreneurs with a unique environment for FinTech development, with access to banking infrastructures, systems expertise, banking products, banking users, compliance and regulation. João was a volunteer at the microfinance NGO Move, where he has been in charge of supporting the creation of 7 businesses with underprivileged entrepreneurs in Mozambique. Founder President of Bring Entrepreneurs Together, the largest Portuguese university organization dedicated to develop entrepreneurship in the country. BET has been responsible for the 24 Hours Entrepreneurship event, involving thousands of participants through the different editions. Examples of companies raised on the program are Uniplaces, Chic by Choice, Clinky, Yoochai and Recibos on-line. João has an Economics Bachelor degree from Nova SBE, a Master in Management with Major in Finance from Católica Lisbon SBE and the Fintech Course of Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). He was a Teaching Assistant at the Master of Finance and Executive Education of Nova SBE and in 2017 has joined Católica Lisbon SBE to fully focus his academic contribution in Fintech.



Contact(s) and Office Hours:

joaofa@portugalfintech.org , Office Hours: To be defined

Schedule:

Group Sessions :

SESSION #1 (Group meeting; 5th February, 18:30)

Content :

- Introducing the Fintech landscape and major drivers
- Introducing the key thematic areas
- Sharing and explaining potential dissertation topics

Thesis:

- Knowing students interests

SESSION #2 (Group meeting; 12th February, 18:30)

Content :

- Fintech Concepts, markets and innovation dilemma
- Future Fintech trends

Thesis:

- Students should select up to 3 main topics of their interest and explain the reasoning behind the choice
- Present in 5min. to the group

SESSION #3 (Group meeting; 19th February, 18:30)

Content :

- Tools to analyze fintech opportunities
- What is an academically and managerially relevant thesis (Sharing Best practices)



Thesis:

- Chose a final dissertation proposal
- Present in 5min. to the group

SESSION #4 (Group meeting; 26th February, 18:30)

Content :

- Curated theoretical content about the specific topics selected by the students
- Presenting more specific support literature

Thesis:

- The student should present a first draft of literature review

SESSION #5 (Group meeting; 12th March, 18:30)

- Final version of literature review
- Present the methodology

SESSION #6 (Group meeting; 26th March, 18:30)

- Present the research and analysis
- Feedback on the results and data collection

Individual Sessions :

SESSION #7 and #8

Dates to be arranged during April and May:

- Giving detailed feedback about the thesis document
- Answering questions

SESSION #9 and #10

Dates to be arranged during beginning of May:

- Reviewing of final version of thesis
- Comments and suggestions to be incorporated.



Potential Dissertation Topics:

Note that the following themes represent suggestions of thesis. The students can choose one of the topics or other fintech related topic, if relevant for the sector.

Industry Analysis, systematized analysis about one of the following fintech segments:

- Financing Companies:
 - Lending Tech
 - Equity Financing
 - Risk management

- Wealth Tech
 - Personal Finance
 - Robo-Advisory
 - Pensions
 - Savings
 - PFM

- Payments
 - Remittances
 - Transfers

- Banking Tech:
 - Banking Infrastructure
 - Institutional Investments
 - Retail Investments
 - Consumer Banking
 - Financial Research

- Insurtech
- Regtech

Regulation:

- How to make Portugal a Fintech friendly country? a. FCA Approach b. BaFin Approach c. Baltics Approach d. US Approach e. Current Portuguese Status f. Strategies and Specific measures to efficiency.

- PSD2 impacts and business opportunities.



Fintech Banks:

Vertical:

Bundle and offer in a seamless way FinTech solutions:

- SME's
- Retails
- Emigrants
- Big Corps

Horizontal:

- White Lable Banks
- Neo / Challenger Banks

Business Case:

- Selecting a Fintech Startup
- Selecting a corporate Fintech innovation

Markets:

- Common characteristics of publicly traded Fintechs. Metrics, financials and industry research
- Equity research about one publicly traded Fintech
- M&A Fintech Market description and trends

Crypto Currencies and new technologies impacts:

- ICO's: New financing source or irrational exuberance?
- Slecting a technology and analyzing the impacts on the financial sector:
 - Blockchain
 - Artificial Inteligence
 - Cloud banking
 - Open API banking
 - Fin-integration strategies

Fintech as a driver of Financial Inclusion:

- European Market (or developed World)
- African Market (or developing World)

Prizes and recognitions:

- European Commission has launched a special program to finance studies about blockchain solutions and proposals for Europe. Official Information can be consulted [here](#).
 - CMVM is supporting the best Financial Innovation Thesis. Official Information can be consulted [here](#).
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Deadlines:

The full list of dates and deadlines can be consulted [here](#).