

INVITATION

THE ENGINEER IN SOCIETY

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The risks from climate change to sovereign debt

SPEAKER: Prof. Stavros Zenios, Professor of Finance and Management Science, University of Cyprus



ABOUT THE TALK:

After providing evidence of divergent climate risks to advanced economies, the talk shows how integrated assessment models can be linked with debt sustainability analysis to inform our understanding of climate risks to sovereign debt dynamics and argues for adopting the narrative scenario architecture developed within the IPCC. The analysis is complicated by the deep uncertainty surrounding climate change. Scenario trees can be used to deal with uncertainty, narrative scenarios with ambiguity, and ensembles of models with misspecification. Two prominent climate models are used to generate the debt dynamics of a high-debt country subject to climate risks to economic growth.

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SHORT BIO:

Stavros Zenios is Professor of Finance and Management Science at University of Cyprus, Member of the Cyprus Academy of Sciences, Letters, and Arts, Non-resident Fellow of Bruegel, and Senior Fellow at the Wharton School Financial Institutions Center. He is currently working on sovereign debt risk analysis, including the effects of climate change and political risks. He is the author of two books and numerous scholarly articles in leading journals in risk management, financial engineering, and management science. He received awards for work on the performance of financial institutions, and the 2006 EURO Excellence in Practice Award for work on personal financial planning. His work on financial modeling and robust optimization is cited extensively. His book with Patrick Harker on Performance of Financial Institutions (Cambridge Uni. Press) was translated in Chinese, and he received the INFORMS prize for his book with Yair Censor Parallel Optimization (Oxford Uni. Press).