

BIG DATA & ALGORITHMIC FINANCE



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Takaya Sekine, CFA is the Deputy Head of Quant Portfolio Strategy within Amundi Investment Institute (formerly known as the Quantitative Research Team of Amundi). In this role, he works on the practical implementation of quant research and alternative data for investment strategies.

He joined Amundi in 2000 and is in his current position since July 2018. Prior to that, he was Deputy CIO at Amundi Japan (between 2011 and 2018) with a focus on global quantitative strategies, Head of Index and Multi-Strategies at Amundi Japan (between 2010 and 2011), Fund Manager (between 2007 and 2010) and Financial Engineer (between 2001 and 2007). He has been involved in macro and policy related investment strategies for both retail and institutional clients. Takaya began his career as an IT Manager at Amundi Japan's predecessor company (between 2000 and 2001).

Takaya is a CFA charterholder since 2005 and an Associate member of the Association of Certified Fraud Examiners since 2010. He received the Ingénieur Civil des Mines degree from Ecole des Mines de Nancy in 2000.

MONITORING NARRATIVES: AN APPLICATION TO THE EQUITY MARKET

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In this research, we show that variables from the Global Database of Events, Language and Tone (GDELT) convey significant informational content that can improve on a purely macroeconomic approach when modeling the US equity market. Based on these metrics, we construct time-series that represent and measure how some narratives that appear to be battling each other are changing in the current market environment. Namely we are able to appraise the strength of the roaring 20s, back to the 70s, secular stagnation and monetary economic narratives, but we also add up topical societal narratives related to environmental or social aspects, as well as a geopolitical risk narrative. We formalize an informational content framework and show that including quantitative signals that translate into qualitative stories brings added value when determining the stock market's movement. Indeed, on top of higher explanatory power from their underlying variables, narratives can improve the diversification of standard macroeconomic models and enhance their quality. As such, our results advocate for a close monitoring of narratives in financial markets.

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