Foreign Bank Behavior During Financial Crises

Jon Adams-Kane¹ Julián Caballero² Jamus Lim¹

¹World Bank

²Inter-American Development Bank

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- Two complementary approaches to identify *causal effects*: a difference-in-difference (DiD) design and a DiD matching estimator
- Unique database on ownership of banks in developing economies (361 banks; 66 home and 51 host countries)

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- The magnitude of this effect is large. Banks from crisis countries displayed growth in lending in the host economy between 13% to 42% lower than banks headquartered in non-crisis countries
- The space left by retreating crisis foreign banks was disproportionally filled by foreign non-crisis banks, as opposed to domestic banks
- Foreign banks from crisis countries exhibited a *larger* relative decline in Eastern Europe

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- Peek and Rosengren (1997) and Peek and Rosengren (2000) \rightarrow Japanese banks in USA
- van Rijckeghem and Weder (2003); Martínez-Peria et al., 2005; Kamil and Rai (2010); Cetorelli and Goldberg (2011)...
 → use aggregate data from BIS banking statistics

Closest papers using bank-level data in a cross-country analysis

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 → compare foreign banks with *domestic* banks
- de Haas and van Horen, 2012a, 2012b; Giannetti and Laeven, 2012a, 2012b
 - \rightarrow use data from syndicated loans market

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Our strategy is to compare foreign with foreign, rather than foreign with domestic



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Foreign Bank Behavior During Financial Crises

• Difference-in-Differences regression

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 $I_{ijk,t} = \alpha + \gamma_0 crisis_k + \gamma_1 post_t + \delta (crisis_k \cdot post_t) + \varepsilon_{ijk,t}$

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- Identification comes from assumption of parallel trends of treated and controls during the pre-treatment period

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$$\begin{split} I_{ijk,t} &= \alpha' + \gamma'_{0} crisis_{k} + \gamma'_{1} post_{t} + \delta' \left(crisis_{k} \cdot post_{t} \right) + \alpha_{i} + \alpha_{j} + \alpha_{k} \\ &+ \gamma_{2} \left(\alpha_{j} \cdot post_{t} \right) + \gamma_{3} \left(\alpha_{k} \cdot post_{t} \right) + \varepsilon'_{ijk,t} \end{split}$$

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- Since *T* = 2, we implement this by estimating the equivalent model in the cross-section as in Card and Krueger (1994):

$$\Delta l_{ijk} = eta' + ilde{\delta}'$$
crisis $_k + lpha'_j + lpha'_k + arepsilon'_{ijk}$
• Since T = 2, estimating a DiD regression is identical to estimating a cross-section of the difference in the dependent variable $\Delta I_{ijk} = \beta' + \tilde{\delta} crisis_k + \varepsilon'_{iik}$

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$$\tilde{\delta} = \frac{1}{7} \sum_{i=1}^{l} \left\{ \Delta \hat{l}_{ijt}^{crisis} - \Delta \hat{l}_{ijt}^{noncrisis} \right\}$$

$$\begin{split} \Delta \hat{l}_{ijt}^{crisis} &= \begin{cases} \frac{1}{M} \sum_{-i \in \Im_{M}(i)} \Delta l_{-ijt} & \text{if } crisis_{k} = 0, \\ \Delta l_{ijt} & \text{if } crisis_{k} = 1; \end{cases} \\ \Delta \hat{l}_{ijt}^{noncrisis} &= \begin{cases} \Delta l_{ijt} & \text{if } crisis_{k} = 0, \\ \frac{1}{M} \sum_{-i \in \Im_{M}(i)} \Delta l_{-ijt} & \text{if } crisis_{k} = 1, \end{cases} \end{split}$$

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• DiD Matching Estimator (Abadie and Imbens, 2006):

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• Identification comes from assumption of *unconfoundness*: conditional on covariates, there are no unobservables that are associated both with the treatment and with the potential outcomes

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Data: Banks' ownership data

- Independent data collection by authors (at the World Bank)
- Builds on a previous effort by Claessens-van Horen at the WB (recently these authors have also updated these data independently)
- Coverage of 4,496 banks in 131 developing countries, years 1995-2010
- Information comes mostly from Bankscope, but supplemented with other sources
- Data covers all legal entities within a jurisdiction, and is composed of mostly subsidiaries (but also branches when the local regulation forces foreign banks to set up shop as independent legal entities, as in Argentina)

Data: Banks' ownership data

• Definition of ownership:

- Data identifies nationality of ownership based on the direct ownership of shares
- A bank is foreign-owned if 50% or more of its shares are directly owned by foreigners
- Majority ownership based on information at the end of the year
- Ultimate ownership used when holding companies in tax heavens; or shell company owns majority of shares
- Nationality of largest shareholder(s) when multiple nationalities of foreign owners with less than 50%

Data: Database of systemic banking crises in 2007/2008

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- A systemic banking crisis takes place when:
 - significant signs of financial distress in the banking system
 - significant banking policy interventions
- The year the crisis starts is identified when at least 3 out of 6 policy interventions:
 - extensive liquidity support (ratio of CB claims on the financial sector to deposits and foreign liabilities exceeds 5% and more than doubles)
 - Iarge bank restructuring costs (at least 3% of GDP)
 - Significant asset purchases
 - G significant bank nationalizations (> 5% of GDP)
 - Significant guarantees put in place
 - 6 deposit freezes and/or bank holidays

Sample: Host countries

Country	Foreign	Domestic	Country	Foreign	Domestic
Host Countries	; (51 coun	tries; 361 for	eign banks; 738	8 domestic	banks)
Algeria	5	3	Kenya	5	15
Angola	4	4	Lebanon	3	20
Argentina	15	41	Lithuania	5	3
Armenia	6	2	Macedonia	2	3
Belarus	4	4	Malaysia	11	22
Bolivia	4	6	Mauritius	6	3
Bosnia & Herz.	8	5	Mexico	14	19
Botswana	3	5	Moldova	2	7
Brazil	26	52	Nepal	2	10
Bulgaria	7	7	Pakistan	7	11
Cameroon	5	1	Panama	17	9
China	5	58	Paraguay	7	3
Colombia	5	6	Peru	6	5
Congo, Dem. Rep.	4	1	Romania	15	3
Costa Rica	5	34	Russia	23	168
Côte d'Ivoire	4	1	Senegal	5	1
Dominican Rep.	2	27	Sierra Leone	2	3
Ecuador	2	13	South Africa	7	19
Egypt	9	10	Tanzania	11	4
El Salvador	4	2	Tunisia	5	8
Georgia	4	2	Turkey	10	11
Guatemala	3	10	Uganda	9	1
Honduras	3	7	Uruguay	13	3
India	6	48	Venezuela	3	11
Indonesia	16	18	Zambia	6	1
Kazakhstan	6	8			

Sample: Home countries

Country	Banks	Country	Banks	Country	Banks		
Crisis countries; [*] (17 countries; 208 banks)							
Austria	10	Ireland	1	Portugal [†]	7		
Belgium	3	Italy	6	Slovenia [†]	1		
Denmark	1	Latvia	1	Spain	16		
France [†]	28	Luxembourg	3	United Kingdom	46		
Germany	13	Netherlands	letherlands 18 United States		38		
Greece	14	Nigeria	2				
Non-crisis countries; (49 countries; 153 banks)							
Argentina	4	Honduras	1	Panama	6		
Australia	2	Hong Kong	2	Peru	2		
Azerbaijan	1	Hungary	3	Russia	9		
Bahrain	6	India	9	Saudi Arabia	1		
Botswana	2	Indonesia	1	Singapore	6		
Brazil	9	Israel	4	South Africa	9		
Canada	8	Japan	10	Sweden	1		
China	1	Jordan	1	Switzerland	4		
Colombia	4	Kazakhstan	1	Thailand	1		
Costa Rica	2	Kenya	4	Togo	5		
Croatia	1	Korea, Rep.	2	Turkey	5		
Dominican Rep.	2	Lebanon	2	UAE	4		
Ecuador	1	Libya	4	Uruguay	3		
Egypt	1	Liechtenstein	1	Uzbekistan	1		
Estonia	1	Malaysia	1	Venezuela	1		
Finland	1	Mauritius	1				
Guatemala	1	Mexico	1				

* As defined by Laeven and Valencia (2012); [†]Borderline banking crisis

Core bank-level covariates

Size Solvency Income to loan ratio

Interest margin

Stock of total earning assets Ratio of equity to total assets Net current income/total loans Interest income on assets less expense paid on liabilities/total assets

Additional bank-level covariates

Liquidity Wholesale Profitability

Weakness

Liquid assets/Total Assets Net loans as a percentage of customer funding Return on average equity (%) Ratio of loan loss provisions to net interest revenue

Core country-level covariates

GDP growth GDP per capita Inflation Current account balance Real GDP growth, lagged one year GDP per capita (US\$ constant, 2000) Inflation (CPI) Current account balance (% of GDP)

Additional country-level covariates

Bank capital Nonperforming loans Trade openness

Financial exports

Bank capital to assets ratio Ratio of banks' NPLs to total gross loans Imports plus exports as % of GDP Exports of insurance and financial services as % of service exports Some stylized facts from the data

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- **③** Fact 3: Lending by both groups of foreign banks essentially followed the same trend up through the eve of the crisis
 → change in average lending between 2004-2006 is statistically indistinguishable between foreign crisis and foreign non-crisis banks

Trends in total gross loans, disaggregated by crisis treatment and nontreatment foreign banks, 2000–2010



Baseline results: DiD Regression Model

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	B1	B2	B3	B4
Crisis effect	-0.316	-0.364	-0.127	-0.420
	(0.13)**	(0.12)***	(0.00)***	(0.16)***
	(0.14)**	(0.16)**	(0.39)	(0.21)**
	(0.14)**	(0.16)**	(0.10)	(0.17)**
Fixed effects				
Home	No	No	Yes	Yes
Host	No	Yes	No	Yes
Adj. <i>R</i> ²	0.021	0.307	0.245	0.490
Clusters (countries)	66, 51	66, 51	66, 51	66, 51
Estimation	OLS	OLS	OLS	OLS
N (banks)	361	361	361	361

[†] The dependent variable is in log differenced form. Heteroskedasticity and intragroup correlation-robust standard errors are reported in parentheses; the rows correspond to standard errors: (1) clustered by home country; (2) clustered by host country; (3) with two-way clustering. A constant term was included in the regressions, but not reported. * indicates significance at 10 percent level, ** indicates significance at 5 percent level, and *** indicates significance at 1 percent level. Fixed effects for home and host are time varying. Cluster sizes are reported for home and host, respectively.

Baseline results: DiD Matching

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	M1	M2	M3	M4	M5	M6
Crisis effect	-0.497 (0.13)***	-0.367 (0.13)***	-0.496 (0.11)***	-0.071 (0.12)	-0.277 (0.11)***	-0.381 (0.11)***
Core bank covariates	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Core host covariates	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Core home covariates	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Non-core bank covariates	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Estimation	Matching	Matching	Matching	Matching	Matching	Matching
Matches	1	2	4	1	2	4
N (banks)	340	340	340	322	322	322

[†] The dependent variable is in log differenced form. Point estimates computed from matching with replacement based on the Mahalanobis metric and are Abadie and Imbens (2011) bias-corrected. Heteroskedasticity-robust standard errors reported in parentheses. * indicates significance at 10 percent level, ** indicates significance at 5 percent level, and *** indicates significance at 1 percent level. Covariates used for matching are the core country and bank controls listed in the appendix. Additional bank covariates are wholesale and liquidity. All bank-level covariates enter with their values set in the pre-crisis period (t = 2006).

Baseline results: DiD regression model allowing for time-varying bank-level covariates (set at t = 2006)

	C 1	C2	C3	C4	C5	C 6	
Crisis effect	-0.256	-0.571	-0.548	-0.508	-0.397	-0.296	
	(0.14)*	(0.26)**	(0.24)**	(0.27)*	(0.22)*	(0.25)	
	Core bank-specific characteristics						
Solvency		0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	
		(0.00)*	(0.00)*	(0.00)	(0.00)	(0.00)	
Income-to-loan				-0.007	0.247	0.256	
				(0.01)	(0.04)***	(0.04)***	
		Additional bank-specific characteristics					
Fixed effects							
Home	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
Host	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
Adj. <i>R</i> ²	0.502	0.548	0.550	0.558	0.660	0.668	
Clusters (countries)	66, 51	66, 51	66, 51	66, 51	66, 51	66, 51	
Estimation	OLS	OLS	OLS	OLS	OLS	OLS	
N (banks)	361	361	361	361	344	343	

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 - Palsification: assignment of treatment for trade collapse in home
 - Seal Stimulus in home Falsification: assignment of treatment for fiscal stimulus in home
 - Estimating a DiD matching model allowing for domestic banks in pool of controls, but forcing exact matching by host country
Robustness checks

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 - Estimating the models with averages pre = 2005 2006 and post = 2009 - 2010
- Checks on the identifying assumptions:
 - **1** Placebo: assignment of treatment for pre = 2002 and post = 2005
 - Palsification: assignment of treatment for trade collapse in home
 - Selection: assignment of treatment for fiscal stimulus in home
 - Estimating a DiD matching model allowing for domestic banks in pool of controls, but forcing exact matching by host country
- DiD regression: fully saturated model on the covariates

Falsification tests

Falsification tests

	F1	F2	F3	F4	F5	F6	
	t=2002, t+1=2005		<i>treatment=trade</i>		treatment=fiscal		
Treatment effect	0.077 (0.32)	-0.389 (0.29)	0.889 (0.33)***	0.435 (0.74)	0.517 (0.23)**	0.675 (0.27)**	
Core bank covariates	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	
Home FE	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
Host FE	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
Adj. <i>R</i> ²	0.442	0.516	0.490	0.558	0.490	0.558	
Clusters (countries)	49, 42	49, 42	66, 51	66, 51	66, 51	66, 51	
Estimation	OLS	OLS	OLS	OLS	OLS	OLS	
N (banks)	265	264	361	361	316	316	

DiD matching: Including domestic banks

DiD matching: Including domestic banks

	D1	D2	D3	D4	D5	D6
Crisis effect	-0.229	-0.364	-0.334	-0.161	-0.160	-0.210
	(0.08)***	(0.07)***	(0.07)***	(0.08)**	(0.07)**	(0.07)***
Core bank covariates	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Non-core bank covariates	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Exact host matching	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Exact matches (%)	95.7	94.5	87.0	92.8	91.8	81.8
Estimation	Matching	Matching	Matching	Matching	Matching	Matching
Matches	1	2	4	1	2	4
N (banks)	1,099	1,099	1,099	1,021	1,021	1,021

DiD OLS & DiD matching: Comparing foreign noncrisis banks with domestic banks

DiD OLS & DiD matching: Comparing foreign noncrisis banks with domestic banks

	N1	N2	N3	N4	N5	N6	N7	N8
	OLS DID				Matching DID			
Treatment effect	0.251 (0.12)**	0.166 (0.22)	0.140 (0.20)	0.184 (0.27)	2.158 (0.09)***	1.299 (0.08)***	3.383 (0.14)***	2.997 (0.08)***
Core bank covariates	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Core host covariates	-	-	-	-	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Core home covariates	-	-	-	-	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Non-core bank covariates	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	Yes
Home FE	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	-	-	-	-
Host FE	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	-	-	-	-
Exact host matching	-	-	-	-	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Exact matches (%)	-	-	-	-	95.4	87.6	73.7	69.5
Adj. <i>R</i> ²	0.012	0.395	0.405	0.452	-	-	-	-
Clusters (countries)	74, 51	74, 51	74, 51	74, 51	-	-	-	-
Estimation	OLS	OLS	OLS	OLS	Matching	Matching	Matching	Matching
Matches	-	-	-	-	1	2	4	4
N (banks)	891	891	891	827	891	891	891	827

Compare foreign noncrisis banks with domestic banks

Compare foreign noncrisis banks with domestic banks

• Compare relative crisis effect of non-crisis foreign banks with that of domestic banks

 \rightarrow Results suggest non-crisis foreign banks relatively increased their lending beyond of what domestic banks did (relative to crisis-hit foreign banks)

DiD OLS: Heterogeneity of crisis effect by region

DiD OLS: Heterogeneity of crisis effect by region

	S 1	S 2	S 3	S 4	S 5	S6
Crisis effect	-0.425	0.010	-0.447	-0.621	-0.467	-0.515
	(0.08)***	(0.37)	(0.07)***	(0.08)**	(0.07)**	(0.07)***
$Crisis \times EAP$	-0.304					
	(0.50)					
$Crisis \times ECA$		-1.560				
		(0.61)**				
$Crisis \times LAC$			0.551			
			(0.63)	0 540		
				0.549		
$Crisis \times SAS$				(0.43)	0 301	
					(0.42)	
Crisis imes SSA					(•••-)	0.562
						(0.43)
Fixed effects						
Home	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Host	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Adj. <i>R</i> ²	0.491	0.505	0.493	0.492	0.491	0.492
Clusters (countries)	66, 51	66, 51	66, 51	66, 51	66, 51	66, 51
Estimation	OLS	OLS	OLS	OLS	OLS	OLS
N (banks)	361	361	361	361	361	361

Julián Caballero (IDB)

Foreign Bank Behavior During Financial Crises

Recap of the results

• Foreign banks owned by countries experiencing crises in 2007/2008 did in fact exhibit relatively lower lending growth in host developing economies.

 \rightarrow Foreign banks are a vehicle of international transmission of home shocks

- The magnitude of this effect is large. Banks from crisis countries displayed growth in lending in the host economy between 13% to 42% lower than banks headquartered in non-crisis countries
- The space left by retreating crisis foreign banks was disproportionally filled by foreign non-crisis banks, not by domestic banks
- Foreign banks from crisis countries exhibited a *larger* relative decline in Eastern Europe

Foreign Bank Behavior During Financial Crises

Jon Adams-Kane¹ Julián Caballero² Jamus Lim¹

¹World Bank

²Inter-American Development Bank

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