

BATTLE OF THE QUANTS NEW YORK CITY

MARCH 27TH TO 28TH · CHRISTIE'S

Agenda

Tuesday, March 27th

10:15 Welcoming Coffee, Opening Remarks and QUANT: "The Movie" Trailer Preview

10:20 Keynote Address: "The State of the Quants"

10:50 The Main Battle: Man vs. Machine (Humanizing the Machine or Automating the Man)

The panel will consist of two viewpoints on how best to generate alpha in trading strategies. The intellectual discussion will examine the success of systematic strategies relative to those of human discretionary decision making. Are humans or machines best at generating superior returns? Or, perhaps, is a "Quantamental" solution the answer?

11:20 Quantitative Investor Panel: The Other side of Alpha!

Determining the right benchmark for quantitative strategies is a critical issue for investors in determining alpha. Without a clear benchmark, we cannot determine Alpha. Once determined, can we assess whether the source(s) of that alpha are sustainable. Like fishing the oceans, is there a point at which excess alpha hurts future alpha as the source(s) decline or perish? Or is it possible that there are natural forces present in the market which produce an alpha equilibrium, limiting the harvesters and protecting the source.

Conor Brosnan, Head of Research, Abbey Capital

Chris Rapcewicz, Chief Risk Officer, UBPAM

11:50 Presentation HFT: A Case Study in the Race to Zero

The quant fund choosing the HFT road on the on the Race to Zero is in a technological arms race faced with a myriad of issues. This talk will address 1. Pebble in a pond: How changes in the price of risk propagate through an asset class 2) Why latency is important to a liquidity provider 3) Quantifying time in units of information flow 4) Why is there a technology arms race? 5) Price discovery in other asset classes 6) The telecomm angle: History of the Race

Speaker: Mani Mahjouri - Co-Chief Strategist & Chief Investment Officer, Tradeworx

12:15 Systematic Models Issue of the Day: Would you ever override your Trading System?

This is an increasingly relevant issue to investors in systematic trading because unexpected and unusual market moves are becoming de rigueur in today's financial markets. The issue is highlighted in a recent WSJ article "Computer-driven traders are learning that sometimes you just have to go with your gut. Big currency hedge funds ... are tweaking, and in some cases overriding, computer models ... this year. These models, which tell traders when to buy and sell based on factors such as market trends and economic reports, sometimes require weeks' worth of data before they spit out the right trading strategy. That wait has proved a liability lately amid a series of sudden and unexpected events that have whipsawed the euro by cents at a time..."

Michiel Swaak, CFA Managing Director, QIC

12:45 Networking Buffet Luncheon

2:30 Afternoon Keynote: Market Risk, Poker and Germany vs. Greece

Speaker: Aaron Brown Risk Manager AQR Capital Management

3:00 Texts, Tweets, Twits – How is Market Sentiment Analysis of Value in Quantitative Trading

Quants are frequently reminded of the lack of a computers' ability to interpret text news stories (as the human mind can) and have those stories reflected appropriately in the trading process. Significant capital and intelligence has been poured into developing news reading algorithms, measuring new social media interactions for sentiment and even creating information arbitrage strategies, all to gain predictive capabilities in market moves. Several solutions are generating significant success for quant funds. What is behind the technology and how can the solution enhance an existing model.

3:30 Networking Break

4:00 Investing in Quant Strategies; UCITS, Managed Accounts or Direct – Pros and Cons

Many avenues are available to the investor for allocations to quantitative based Hedge Funds. Experts will discuss the different vehicles and why, when buying a quant based fund, how you invest will have an impact on the control and safety of the assets. Also, the panel takes a closer look at why quant funds have a unique ability to rapidly qualify for the UCITS platform.

4:30 Unexpected and Sudden Severe Market Shocks: Which Quantitative Strategy is Best

Equipped to Stem Losses.

Unexpected market gyrations are becoming more frequent than ever expected. Investors are increasingly asking how managers' quantitative strategies are prepared to preserve capital and stem losses during severe market moves. This panel will examine the strategies that are best positioned and architected for these challenging times.

5:00 Presentation “Systematic Implementation of Fundamental Macroeconomic Strategies: Illustrating Structural Strategy Diversification within Deeply Liquid Asset Markets”

This address will speak to two themes of ongoing importance to managers of portfolios of absolute return, or “alpha”, strategies. First, how do we understand and distinguish between empirical correlation and structural correlation? That is, why do seemingly different or unrelated strategies or asset classes have high correlation, or why do strategies or assets that have been plausibly uncorrelated for some time, become correlated at the worst possible time? Second, how much diversification can a hedge fund portfolio manager achieve across strategies within the relatively few assets that constitute the truly deep pools of liquidity in global markets? For example, how uncorrelated can hedge fund investors expect trend-following CTAs and discretionary macro managers to really be?

Karlheinz Muhr, Partner, QFS Funds

5:00 Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning: The Time has Come!

Has the promise of Artificial Intelligence made decades ago finally been achieved in hedge funds? If markets are driven by fear and greed, can AI systems incorporate emotion? Will humans be relegated to being behind the scenes programmers of trading machines? AI systems such as IBM Watson are able to interpret trillions of bytes of data accessible through the internet in seconds and rendering confidence level answers. Is this a tool or a replacement for humans? When will we see the impact or are we already?

David Vogel, Founder, Voloridge Capital

5:30 Cocktail Networking Reception in Christie’s Penthouse Gallery

7:30 Battle of the Quants Awards Charity Gala Dinner (The FIRST NYC Quant Awards Celebration)

Dinner Presentation - “Quantitative Analysis- To Infinity and Beyond: You’re Ticket to Mars!”

Speaker: Richard Garriott – “Man on a Mission” Film Documentary



Dinner Charity: MoMath – Museum of Mathematics

A professional auctioneer will auction off donations from sponsors. Proceeds (100%) are donated to the Math Museum to enhancing public understanding of mathematics.

11:00 End of Day

Day 2 March 28th Sentiment Analysis Morning

8:00 Quant Hedge Fund CIO Breakfast (Invitation Only)

Technology vendors will have the opportunity to conduct presentations to Chief Technology Officers of hedge funds.

10:00 Welcoming Coffee and Introduction

Robert Passarella, Vice President Managing Director, Dow Jones Financial Services

10:15 Morning Keynote: The Wisdom and Madness of Crowds

Craig Kaplan, Principal, iQTick Advisors

10:45 Sourcing Data for Sentiment Analysis Models: News vs. Social Networking

Is news the best sentiment resource because of traditional reliable somewhat unbiased news reporting or are the millions of tweets, twits, facebook comments and Blogs more reflective of sentiment?

Seth McGuire, President, Gnip

Ben Weiss, Vice President of Business Development, StockTwits

11:30 Analyzing, Tagging Enabling and Coding Sentiment Data for use in Financial Models?

Are inputs for sentiment trading engines based exclusively on the data input from one source of sentiment or simply a marginal factor amongst many. What's changing in the use of media & data in trading? How Twitter is changing the landscape in business news Business Insiders & others. News Analytics from the Ground Up: Why you need to think about automated strategies using news. Sentiment is the next frontier. What you need to understand in order to take advantage. What is crowd sourced Financial Data?

Armando Gonzales, CEO and Founder, Ravenpack

Bram Stalknecht, CEO, SEMLAB

CEO, Estimote

11:30 Quant Funds Trading on Sentiment, Does it Work?

A recent survey indicated that 30% of hedge funds are employing some type of sentiment analysis in their trading models. Many multi-factor based quantitative hedge funds are adding a sentiment factor to reflect how markets are reacting more often to headlines, fear and greed vs. fundamentals. Other trading strategies are going further and relying purely on sentiment to trade the markets. In this panel we go to the innovators in this space who use sentiment analysis to trade markets. We examine the successes and failures and find out how best to leverage sentiment to drive returns.

Moderator: Richard Peterson, CEO and Founder, MarketPsych

Paul Hawtin, Managing Director and Founder, Derwent Capital "The Twitter Fund"

Hideki Furusho, Founder, Plug Capital "The Blog Fund"

Randy Saaf, CEO.CIO, Alpha Genius

Raul Andreas Glavan, Winner: IronTrader Germany

Chris Foster, CEO, Blackheath Fund Management

12:20 Networking Lunch

High Frequency Trading Afternoon

1:00 Afternoon Keynote - The Ongoing Transformation of the Industry and the Implications for Large Traders of all Frequencies.

As the Electronization of Markets continues what are the Implications for Large Investors? What is the Current Electronic investing Landscape: Changes, Regulation, and Future Developments. What does and does not work in the automated markets - Challenges, Opportunities and Technological Requirements.

1:40 The "Pico" Second and the Race to the Bottom.

This panel will examine the incredible speeds being achieved by UHFT systems and where this will take the industry and who will be the winners. As speed becomes paramount for the well healed hedge funds, why are other players changing their strategy and opting for slower speeds. Will they be able to make money? If so how?

2:15 Is the Real Race to Zero Latency, or Consistent Latency?

Will your HFT system function as quickly when everyone is racing to the door? How can you architect a system that will ensure consistent latency?

3:00 Regulation and Ethics of HFT

On everyone's mind, what are the regulators thinking?

3:45 Afternoon Networking Coffee Break

4:15 The Future of High Frequency Trading and the Impact on the Global Financial System

What are the challenges as next generation technology innovation accelerates.

5:00 Networking Cocktail Party

7:30 End of Conference