

Back-office intricacy: the description of financial objects in an investment bank

[Get access >](#)

, , ,

Industrial and Corporate Change, Volume 20, Issue 4, August 2011, Pages 1189–1213, <https://doi.org/10.1093/icc/dtr020>

Published: 31 May 2011

Abstract

The complexity of contemporary finance translates into what we call the problem of “description”: the problem of constructing robust, flexible, portable, and mutually compatible depictions of complex, multisided, and often ambiguous financial objects (products, trades, marketplaces). This problem is characteristically exacerbated in back-office operations within the financial services industry. We provide a case study in the form of a qualitative examination of back- and middle-office operations in an international investment bank. We analyze the manifold manifestations of the problem of description within this bank.

© The Author 2011. Published by Oxford University Press on behalf of Associazione ICC. All rights reserved.

JEL: G24 - Investment Banking; Venture Capital; Brokerage; Ratings and Ratings Agencies, L22 - Firm Organization and Market Structure, M15 - IT Management, Z13 - Economic Sociology; Economic Anthropology; Social and Economic Stratification

Issue Section: [Articles](#)

You do not currently have access to this article.

Personal account

- Sign in with email/username & password
- Get email alerts
- Save searches
- Purchase content
- Activate your purchase/trial code

Sign in >

[Register](#)

Institutional access

Sign in through your institution >

[Sign in with a library card](#)

[Sign in with
username/password](#)

[Recommend to your librarian](#)

Institutional account management

[Sign in as administrator](#)

Purchase

[Subscription prices and ordering for this journal](#)

[Purchasing options for books and journals across Oxford Academic](#)

Short-term Access

To purchase short-term access, please sign in to your personal account above.

Don't already have a personal account? [Register](#)

Back-office intricacy: the description of financial objects in an investment bank - 24 Hours access

EUR €38.00

GBP £33.00

USD \$41.00

Rental



This article is also available for rental through DeepDyve.