### **CAASA Annual Conference 2023**

Presented by: the Canadian Association of Alternative Strategies & Assets



CANADIAN ASSOCIATION OF ALTERNATIVE STRATEGIES & ASSETS

**Program Sponsored by:** 





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HGC Investment Management Inc. ("HGC") is an employee-owned, alternative asset management firm based in Toronto. The Manager believes that hedge funds should have narrow mandates for investor clarity, produce uncorrelated returns to the market, have a low level of volatility and a high degree of liquidity. These investor-friendly characteristics are the hallmark of HGC. HGC is a registered Portfolio Manager, Investment Fund Manager and Exempt Market Dealer with the Ontario Securities Commission.

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### WELCOME TO OUR IN-DEPTH LOOK INTO ALL THINGS ALTERNATIVE

The CAASA Annual Conference brings together speakers and participants from public and private pension plans, sovereign wealth funds, foundations & endowments, single and multi-family offices, investment dealers, Canadian and global investment management houses, and affiliated service providers. Panels and sponsored table talks sessions will focus on key issues facing investors worldwide including structuring, legal & tax issues, IT and operational areas, and investments including: hedge funds, CTAs, private equity, private lending, real estate, infrastructure, and cryptoassets/blockchain-related investments. All content is subject to Chatham House Rule.



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MGG's non-sponsor portfolios of uncorrelated, private lending and special situation investments are designed to deliver consistent high cash yields with upside and superior risk-adjusted returns in all market cycles. MGG's LPs are leading global, blue chip institutional endowment, foundation, pension, and insurance investors. MGG manages approximately \$4.5 billion of committed capital. MGG offers onshore and offshore vehicles in both drawdown and evergreen structures, including a Canada Fund, EU/AIFM Luxembourg vehicles, and a Rated Debt Feeder Fund.



New York San Francisco Dallas Atlanta

### **INCLUSIVE, ACTIVE, AND PAN-ALTERNATIVE**

The Canadian Association of Alternative Strategies & Assets (CAASA) was created in response to industry requests for a national group to represent the Canadian alternative investment participants, including investors, asset managers, and service providers. CAASA is inclusive in that it welcomes participation from all companies active in the space as well as select individuals (those with investors) who might want to participate in committees and working groups - or simply attend member events without their employer being a member of the association. CAASA is very active in both committees & groups and events: 45+ events, including this conference, have occurred or are planned in 2019. Pan-alternative, for CAASA, encompasses all alternative strategies and assets including: hedge funds / alternative trading strategies, private and public real estate (funds and direct), private lending, private equity, development & project finance, digital assets / crypto-assets, weather derivatives & cat bonds, and all aspects of diligence, trading, structuring, dealing, and monitoring alternatives in a stand-alone portfolio and as part of a larger investment strategy.

### MEMBER BENEFITS

**Investors** join CAASA to be a part of a formal network of pension plans, foundations, endowments, sovereign wealth funds, and family offices to discuss ideas, strategies, and operational issues particular to their businesses - all within a closed group where managers and service providers may or may not be included, depending on the forum.

Managers see the association as a way to connect with peers, investors, and service providers to speak to fund structuring, sales & marketing, and regulatory issues. CAASA is not a capital introduction platform, but we do create forums where investors and managers can meet organically or via structured meeting sessions, such as at this conference, where participation by the investors is strictly opt-in.

Service providers participate in our events and working groups as well as assist in the production of thought leadership pieces which provide relevant information to both association members and the industry and investing public at large.

Founders receive exposure via our member directory, participating in our various Founders' Pitch Competitions, speaking on panels, taking part in podcasts, and being involved in a very active network.

### NATIONAL AND GLOBAL

CAASA believes that the Canadian alternatives industry has a great deal to offer Canadians and the global community. The Canadian Model of Pension Management is well-known for its large alternatives focus, managed in-house in many cases with substantial allocations to external managers as well. Canadian investment managers operate in a robust regulatory regime (of hedge fund managers) that is becoming the norm across the globe and a stable banking back-drop that provides solace for investors as well as opportunities for managers. Talent in investment management (approximately 10% of all CFA charterholders reside in Canada) as well as newer areas such as digital assets and robo-advisory services are a differentiator. Of course, Canadian investors and managers are keen to learn of best practices in operations and portfolio management from their global peers.

# **ABOUT CAASA**

## **SPEAKERS, SPONSORS, & INVESTORS ONLY** TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 7<sup>TH</sup>

# **SPEAKERS, SPONSORS, & INVESTORS ONLY** TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 7<sup>TH</sup>

11:00 AM	<b>Registration opens for speakers, sponsors, and investors</b> We welcome all CAASA members who are sponsors of the event as well as all speaker and investors (e.g., those employed by pensions, E&Fs, SWFs, single family offices, and certain wealth managers).
	All other registered delegates are welcome to the Welcome Reception in the evening.
NOON	Opening Remarks & Curriculum Overview James Burron, CAASA & Ranjan Bhaduri, Bodhi Research Group - Lunch Served at this time - Welcome to the Sixth CAASA Annual Conference in Montréal!
	The growth of CAASA has occurred much because of the success of this event and this is due a great deal to the talent and hard work of Ranjan Bhaduri of Bodhi Research Group who organizes our programming for this (and predecessor events at another organization), our flagship, conference.
12:15 PM	Lunch Keynote – CIO Corner: Benchmarking and asset allocation in a volatile market Pierre-Philippe Ste-Marie, Bodhi Research Group with Pierre Bélanger, Régime de retraite du personnel des CPE et garderies conventionnées du Québec (RRCPEGQ), and Jean-François Pepin, Bimcor
12.10 T M	In a period of cross asset correlation breakdown and high sectoral volatility, both asset allocation needs to be re-examined and benchmarking, which is the foundation on which asset allocation is built, also deserves serious thought. Jean-Francois Pepin and Pierre Belanger, two veteran CIOs, provide their insights on asset allocation and benchmarking.

### **PIERRE-PHILIPPE STE-MARIE BODHI RESEARCH GROUP**

Pierre-Philippe Ste-Marie, financial executive with 25 years of experience in the financial industry working with fixed income and cross asset absolute returns teams. He has initiated and successfully unwound absolute returns and indexed portfolios and managed Canadian, US and European cross asset exposure levered and unlevered as a team leader (CEO, CIO) as well as a portfolio manager. Prior to joining Bodhi Research as a Visiting Researcher, Pierre-Philippe was Optimum Asset management Co-CIO until March 2022. During his tenure he implemented global management and global execution bringing American, European and Canadian teams under the same investment process with cross trading agreements. Prior to joining Optimum, he founded and was Chief Executive Officer of Razorbill Advisors, a Montreal-based investment management firm focused on fixed income, absolute return, total return and relative-value strategies. From 1997 to 2013, he worked for National Bank of Canada, first as a fixed income option modeller, then as a market maker, eventually rising to become a Managing Director, leading a team specialized in quantitative credit modeling and investments.

# **KEYNOTE SPEAKER**

### **PIERRE BÉLANGER RÉGIME DE RETRAITE DU PERSONNEL DES CPE ET GARDERIES CONVENTIONNÉES DU QUÉBEC (RRCPEGQ)**

Pierre Bélanger is Director of Investments for Régime de retraite du personnel des CPE et garderies conventionnées du Québec (RRCPEGQ), he is responsible for the management of plan assets (\$4.0 B).

He has over 30 years of experience in the financial markets. He has acquired solid expertise in portfolio management, global asset allocation, derivatives trading, financing, structured notes, asset / liability matching and risk management.

During his career, he has recently held the positions of: Vice President, Investment Portfolio Management - Fonds de solidarité FTQ; Vice President - Global Asset Allocation and Special Products - Natcan Portfolio Management: Senior Manager - Bond Portfolio - Hydro-Québec Pension Plan.

Mr. Bélanger holds a Master's degree in Economics (M.Sc.) and a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration (B.A.A.) from the École des Hautes Études Commerciales in Montreal.

# **KEYNOTE SPEAKER**



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## **SPEAKERS, SPONSORS, & INVESTORS ONLY** TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 7<sup>TH</sup>

# **KEYNOTE SPEAKER**

### **JEAN-FRANÇOIS PÉPIN BIMCOR**

Mr. Pépin joined Bimcor in August of 2021 as chief investment officer. In his role, Mr. Pépin oversees the investment activities of the various pension plans for the Bell Canada group of companies. Prior to joining Bimcor, Mr. Pépin was treasurer of Hydro-Québec in charge of overseeing Hydro-Québec's pension plan. and

Jean-François began his career at Addenda Capital, where he held a number of positions including Trader, senior trader, Vice-President - trading and strategy as well as team leader. From 2012 to 2017, Mr. Pépin was senior vice-president and co-chief investment officer.

Jean-François was an inaugural member of the Bank of Canada's Canadian Fixed Income Forum (CFIF). Jean-François has been actively involved in various charities supporting the community such as the Club des Petits déjeuners and La Maison Marguerite. Jean-François holds a bachelor's and master's degree in Business Administration - Finance from the University of Sherbrooke University.





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investments can involve significant risks and should be regarded as highly speculat



in **Capital Fund Management** 





Read more at caasa.ca - or contact us at +1 (647) 953-0737 or caroline@caasa.ca

## **GAASA ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2023** Peter Rausch "The growing wave US and European bank sales of illiquid debt TABLE 8 CAASA ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2023 METORI "Using correlation in portfolio constr does it add or destroy value? TABLE 10 **CAASA ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2023** AgriRoots Planting Prosperity: The Can Agricultural Debt Market TABLE 12

## **SPEAKERS, SPONSORS, & INVESTORS ONLY** TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 7<sup>TH</sup>

# **SPEAKERS, SPONSORS, & INVESTORS ONLY** TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 7<sup>TH</sup> **KEYNOTE SPEAKER**

1:30 PM	<i>Table Talks, 2 x 30-minute sessions</i> See previous page for topics and Table Talk hosts.	
2:30 PM	<ul> <li>Keynote – China's Rise as Superpower: Deciphering Beijing's Domestic Politics</li> <li>Dr. Diana Fu, Munk School of Global Affairs &amp; Public Policy and Dept of Political Science, University of Toronto</li> <li>The rivalry between China and the United States has come to a head. Western leaders talk of economic de-risking while Beijing speaks of the need to restore stability in trade relations. How did China transform from a poor, developing country to become the world's second largest economy in the first place? How does the Chinese Communist Party maintain control over society and what are the political risks associated? As Canada navigates one of the thorniest periods in its relationship with China, it is imperative to take a deep dive into Beijing's domestic politics. This Keynote lecture will take you there.</li> </ul>	
3:15 PM	<b>Quantum Computing Applied to Portfolio Management</b> <b>Dr. Niall Whelan,</b> Bodhi Research Group With the rise of GPT and other language models, we have seen an immense interest in the AI space and its potential impacts on finance. We discuss another developing technology with the threat of being equally as disruptive: quantum computing. From breaking encryption to accelerating the speed of portfolio optimization, quantum computing is a challenge, but has the potential for increased advancement.	
3:45 PM	<i>Afternoon Break</i> Quick refresher before we get back to more great content!	
4:00 PM	<ul> <li>Absolute Return Portfolios         James Burron, CAASA (moderator), Raj Kohli, University Pension Plan Ontario (UPP), Oleg Mogilny, Investment Management Corporation of Ontario (IMCO), Razvan Tonea, CAAT Pension Plan, and Christoph Diedrich, Ontario Teachers' Pension Plan (OTPP)     </li> <li>With increased uncertainty in the long-only markets, absolute return portfolios may play an even more prominent role in total portfolios. This panel of esteemed PMs discuss different strategies, their portfolio priorities, and portfolio construction techniques.</li> </ul>	
4:45 PM	Absolute Return Portfolios John Hynes, HedgeFacts, Stacy Joe, University Pension Plan Ontario (UPP), Barbara Boucher, Caisse de dépôt et placement du Québec (CDPQ), Ju Hui Lee, United Nations Join Staff Pension Fund, and Cordell Thomas II, General Motors Asset Management (GMAM) This expert panel will examine risk management in a multidisciplinary and multidimensional manner. Preventive risk management via operational due diligence pre-investment in both public and private markets, legal & regulatory risk, reputation risk, market risk, and geo-political risk will be examined.	
5:00 PM	Registration opens for all delegates	
5:30 PM	Welcome reception for all registered delegates	
7:30 PM	End of day	

## **DIANA FU UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO**

Diana Fu is a nonresident fellow in the John L. Thornton China Center at Brookings and an associate professor of political science at the University of Toronto and director of the East Asia Seminar Series at the Munk School of Global Affairs and Public Policy. She is a Public Intellectuals Fellow at the National Committee on U.S.-China Relations and has been elected to the Royal Society of Canada's College of New Scholars, Artists, and Scientists.

Her research examines domestic politics in contemporary China, with a focus on civil society, popular protest, state repression, labor, and authoritarian citizenship. She is leading several projects on changes in state and society under the Xi administration, as well as on authoritarian citizenship: what it means to be a "good" versus "bad" citizen in China today. She is author of the award-winning book "Mobilizing Without the Masses: Control and Contention in China." Based on political ethnography inside labor organizations, it reveals how China's migrant workers organized for rights without protesting en masse. It received best book awards from the American Political Science Association, the American Sociological Association, and the International Studies Association. Her award-winning articles have appeared in top political science and area studies journals.

Fu's research and commentary on Chinese politics have been featured in BBC World Service, Bloomberg TV, CBC, Foreign Affairs, Foreign Policy, Reuters, US News & World Report, The Economist, The Financial Times, The Globe & Mail, and The New York Times, among others. She was a television host and script writer for the TVO documentary series, "China Here and Now."

She holds a Doctor of Philosophy in politics and a Master of Philosophy in development studies with distinction from Oxford University, where she studied as a Rhodes Scholar. She is currently serving as national co-secretary of the Rhodes Scholarship for China. She previously held fellowships at Stanford University and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.





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# WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 8<sup>TH</sup>

8:00 AM	Breakfast & Registration for all o
8:30 AM	<b>Opening Remarks &amp; Curriculu</b> James Burron, CAASA & Ran We'll give you a brief overview o day.
8:45 AM	<i>Economic Outlook – The Holy</i> <i>Constance Everson,</i> Capital N We may all have forgotten wha Positive real rates, an upward s low levels, and the key to it all leadership could be geared to ca rather than mega-cap tech relyin Could equity leadership finally of required, and developments to w
9:15 AM	Keynote – Legends Lounge wir Dr. Ranjan Bhaduri, Bodhi Re and CEO of HOOPP Jim Keohane, retired President AIMCO and Trans-Canada Cap Investing. In this exciting CAASA and provide nuggets of wisdom.

# **KEYNOTE SPEAKER**

### **JIM KEOHANE** FORMERLY OF HOOPP

Jim Keohane is currently a member of the Board of Directors for the Alberta Investment Management Corporation (AIMCo) and was President and CEO of the Healthcare of Ontario Pension plan from 2011 until his recent retirement in March 2020. He joined HOOPP in 1999, bringing more than 25 years of institutional investing experience with several national firms. Mr. Keohane is a frequent speaker on retirement income security and liability driven investing. Jim was the architect of HOOPP's Liability Driven Investment strategy and is considered a global expert in this area. He is a strong advocate for collective pension schemes and has championed several studies on the topic.

#### delegates

um Overview njan Bhaduri, Bodhi Research Group of the day and how we created the curriculum for the

### Grail: A normalized investing environment Markets Outlook Group, Inc.

hat a normal investing environment used to look like: sloping yield curve, inflation that stabilized at relatively II: sustained higher economic growth. Stock market current earnings, fueled by sustained economic growth, ing on sustained earnings growth.

change? This session will be a discussion of factors watch for.

### vith Jim Keohane

esearch Group, and **Jim Keohane**, Former President

t and CEO of HOOPP, and current Board Member of pital, was the architect of HOOPP's Liability Driven A session, Mr. Keohane will share his insights on inflation



# WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 8<sup>TH</sup>

# **KEYNOTE SPEAKER**

### **JEAN TURMEL** NYMBUS CAPITAL INC

JeanTurmel, borninSte-Justine, Quebec, stands as a distinguished figure in the financial and philanthropic realms. With an illustrious career spanning several decades, he has made an indelible mark on the Canadian financial landscape.

Mr. Turmel enjoyed a 25-year career at the National Bank of Canada, where he retired as president of Financial Markets, Treasury and Investment Bank. He also held positions at Merrill Lynch, Royal

Securities and Dominion Securities prior to joining National Bank as vice-president, Treasury and Foreign Exchange in 1981.

Jean currently holds the position of Chair of the Board at Nymbus Capital Inc, where his visionary leadership continues to shape the company's trajectory.

Prior to his current role, Jean played a pivotal role in stewarding the Ontario Teachers' Pension Plan as its Chairman of the Board from 2015 to 2019, and as a Director and Chair of the Investment Committee from 2007 to 2015. His leadership during this period was instrumental in ensuring the financial security and well-being of countless beneficiaries.

Throughout his career, Jean has garnered numerous accolades, including a Doctorat Honoris Causa from Université Laval and the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal.

Beyond his professional achievements, Jean Turmel's interests span a wide spectrum, from a deep love of music, travel, and the arts to a passion for golf, fishing, hunting, and wine collecting.

What truly sets Jean apart is his unwavering commitment to philanthropy. He has contributed significantly to charitable causes and has served on numerous boards and committees, exemplifying his dedication to making a positive impact on society.

Jean Turmel continues to be a prominent and respected figure, admired not only for his financial expertise but also for his enduring commitment to enhancing the lives of others through his philanthropic endeavors.

10:00 AM	<i>Private Eye</i> Annie Sorich, PSP Investments Lemieux, Caisse de dépôt et pla Trans-Canada Capital With an eye towards the privates, on its current state.
10:45 AM	<b>1:1 meetings</b> This is everyone's opportunity to m & messaging app or ad hoc. W interactions and encourage every
Machine Learning in Por Dr. Niall Whelan, Bodhi and Mohamed Khalfalla This session dives into machine	
12:15 PM	Climate Change in Real Estate Dr. Erkan Yonder, John Molson Rising carbon levels have led to significant uncertainty into finan real estate and financial instrum presentation will shed light on th valuable insights into managing c
12:45 PM	Lunch Keynote – Legends Loun market Lunch served until 1:15pm onl Pierre-Philippe Ste-Marie, Boo Capital The Canadian derivatives market 1980s. Join us as Jean Turmel, a le through its history and provides u





# WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 8<sup>TH</sup>

s, Skip Cooper, Cooper Family Office, Eric lacement du Québec (CDPQ), and Tarik Serri,

, these industry experts, with different lenses, confer

neet – either as established via our conference meeting *Ne do not require a minimum number of meetings/* one to network at their own pace.

& Risk Management rch Group, Dr. Tolga Cenesizoglu, HEC Montréal, <sup>o</sup> Investments earning and its role in portfolio and risk management.

n School of Business – Concordia University a surge in climate-related risks, which has injected ncial markets, particularly physical assets, such as nents that possess geographical components. This he latest evidence regarding these risks and provide climate-related financial uncertainties in real estate.

nge II: The evolution of the Canadian derivatives

ly. Keynote will be approximately 45 minutes. dhi Research Group and Jean Turmel, Nymbus

has grown leaps and bounds since its origins in the legend of the Canadian investment industry, brings us us with a vision of what could be its future.

### CROSS OCEAN PARTNERS

# **WAYS TO CONNECT**

# WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 8<sup>TH</sup>

### **TÊTE-À-TÊTE MEETINGS**

*This is your opportunity to schedule one-on-one meetings with any conference delegate.* All matching MUST be completed by end of day on Monday, November 6<sup>th</sup> to ensure the scheduling software has time to confirm the meetings and each one is served up to you at the right time.

You can schedule as few or as many as you like on November 8<sup>th</sup>. *Anyone can book a meeting with any other delegate.* Please decline meetings that you might not be interested in or able to commit too - then the other party can invite another to chat. And if you are interested, you're free to connect via our messenger or ask for their email (we DO NOT release delegate contact information, so you'll have to ask for it or send yours along to them and await a response).

### **TABLE TALKS**

Delegates will have the opportunity to choose two sessions lead by our sponsors. We do not sell paid-for speaking spots, preferring delegates to choose when they might like to hear from sponsors.

Table Talks are 30-minute sessions where anywhere from 2 to 30 delegates can get a briefing on a topic and participate in an interactive discussion. As with all of our events, we refrain from pay-to-play and draw all speakers from membership and prefer audiences to opt-in to more niche discussions, as will be delivered at the Table Talks.

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2:00 PM	<b>Table Talks, 2 x 30-minute ses</b> See below for topics and Table
3:00 PM	<b>Portfolio Perspectives: Naviga</b> <b>Dr. Ranjan Bhaduri,</b> Bodhi Re Pension, and <b>Matt Freedman</b> <i>This panel examines current of</i> <i>through these turbulent times.</i>
3:30 PM	<b>1:1 meetings</b> This is everyone's opportunity to & messaging app or ad hoc. interactions and encourage even
4:30 PM	<b>Closing Reception</b> Thank you for being a part of th those who are not otherwise eng enjoy all that Montréal has to of
6:00 PM	<b>End of conference</b> Until next year!



### **ssions** Talk hosts.

ating uncertainty in the current environment esearch Group, **Mohamed Farid**, World Bank I, Louisiana School Employees' Retirement System opportunities and challenges in managing a portfolio

meet – either as established via our conference meeting We do not require a minimum number of meetings/ eryone to network at their own pace.

this year's CAASA Annual Conference. We encourage agaged (e.g., heading to the airport) to find a friend and ffer!

# **CONFERENCE POLICIES**

### **PRIVACY & SECURITY**

Typically, we do not release the names of individuals attending CAASA events including to sponsors and speakers at events - although we may disclose the employers of attendees, except for those working at single family offices which are redacted. For this gathering, of course, all delegates have access to the individuals' names and employers for the purpose of scheduling meetings and booking seats at Table Talks. However, we never release the email addresses or phone numbers of attendees; asking instead that folks reach out via the mobile app / web portal or other means such as corporate websites or services such as LinkedIn. We can pass on contact requests to another party, without any guarantee of a response.

All of our sessions are strictly Chatham House Rule and we ask all delegates to refrain from tweeting or using other social media concerning any of the speakers, topics, or information communicated. Any communication should be broad and general and have absolutely no attribution of any notions to any speaker.

> Thank you to our many speakers, presenters, and those who added their themes and topics, panel and non-industry speaker ideas, and other invaluable input!

# **SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES**



## **GROUP RMC**

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+101%

+479

+52%

2023 YTD

Ranjan Bhaduri, PhD, CFA, CAIA Founder & CEO Bodhi Research Group

Dr. Ranjan Bhaduri is the Founder & CEO of Bodhi Research Group. Bodhi Research Group is focused on research and education in the alternative investments industry.

Dr. Bhaduri has extensive experience in manager research, portfolio management, and due diligence (investment, operational, and structural). Dr. Bhaduri has designed and implemented an institutional due diligence and research program. Dr. Bhaduri's experience includes being on an Investment Committee at Morgan Stanley Private Wealth Management where he conducted due diligence and helped design customized portfolios of Alternatives. Earlier, he was at a Canadian Fund of Funds, and at a multi-billion dollar capital management firm where he was involved in all aspects of its fund of hedge funds and structured finance business. He has also worked with two major Canadian

investment banks in the Financial Strategy Consulting Group and in Global Risk Management & Control, respectively. He has collaborated closely with many pensions and sovereign wealth funds on a variety of portfolio matters.

Dr. Bhaduri has a winning track record of leadership and training. Several of his former analysts and interns have gone on to have successful careers and have held positions at prestigious organizations, including the following firms: Ontario Teachers' Pension Plan, Goldman Sachs, J.P. Morgan, Exelon Corporate Pension, US Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), and Crabel Capital Management.

Dr. Bhaduri has held an advisory role at the East-West Center, a leading think tank on the Asia-Pacific region. He has taught finance and mathematics at several universities and lectured on Derivatives for the Montreal Exchange. Dr. Bhaduri has taught parts of the CFA Curriculum for Allen Resources. Dr. Bhaduri has published papers on, and been invited to speak worldwide regarding hedge fund issues, and advanced portfolio and risk management techniques. Dr. Bhaduri was invited by the CME to be part of a special delegation that met with regulators in Beijing and Taipei to discuss hedge fund issues.

Dr. Bhaduri holds both the CFA and CAIA charters. He is a member of the American Mathematical Society, the Mathematical Association of America, and the Toronto CFA Society. Dr. Bhaduri previously served as a member of the All About Alpha Editorial Board, the CAIA Chicago Chapter Executive, on the Board of Directors of AIMA Canada, co-chair of AIMA Canada Managed Futures Committee, and on the AIMA Global Research Committee. Dr. Bhaduri is an avid ice hockey fan and ACBL Silver Life Master in Bridge.

# **SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES**





Alternative assets, such as private equity, real estate, infrastructure, and private debt are seen as offering institutional investors shelter for their capital from short-term risks and market movements while also generating strong returns.

According to forthcoming research from CIBC Mellon comparing Canadian asset owners from the rest of the world, Canadian pension funds stand out from their global counterparts as keen to seek out alternative investments over the next decade.

For more information about CIBC Mellon's research projects, please contact:

Joe Lacopo Vice President, Relationship Management and Segment Co-lead, Asset Managers +1 416 643 5454

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INDEPENDENT	Privately owned, based in Paris with c. \$750 Million AuM
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#### SCIENTIFIC APPROACH TO PORTFOLIO MANAGEMENT

Metori has developed a differentiated systematic trend following model, using statistical inference framework. We combine academic findings and empirical analysis to estimate the principal components driving market trends.

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Metori Capital Management is a société par actions simplifiée registered in France with its registered office at 9 rue de la Paix, 75002 Paris (RCS Paris 853 656 541). Metori is authorized and regulated by the Autorité des Marchés Financiers ("AMF") in France (reference no. GP-17000002, effective since 6 Feb. 2017). Metori is registered as a CTA and CPO with the Commodity Futures Trading Commission ("CFTC") and a member of the National Futures Association ("NFA") in the USA (NFA ID 0501245). Metori is registered with the AMF (BMR-18000001) and the European Securities and Markets Authority ("ESMA") as Benchmark Administrator since 29/06/2018 pursuant to Article 34 of the Benchmarks Regulation (Regulation (EU) 2016/1011 of 8 June 2016). Metori holds a QFII (Qualified Foreign Institutional Investor) license in China (license n° F2021FRF117).

# **SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES**

#### Barbara Boucher, MBA

Senior Director, Legal – Derivatives and Financial Markets Caisse de dépôt et placement du Québec (CDPQ)

As Senior Director, Barbara Boucher plays a pivotal role in shaping the strategic positioning of Caisse de dépôt et placement du Québec in the financial markets sector, with a particular emphasis on derivatives products. She provides guidance to the organization on issues within this sector and oversees negotiations with market participants, including regulatory authorities.

Ms. Boucher brings over 20 years of experience in the finance industry to her role. Prior to joining the Caisse, she held the position of Head of Derivatives Operations at National Bank of Canada and its subsidiaries. Previously, she worked as a risk management advisor and practiced as a lawyer specializing in labor relations.

In addition to her role as a member of the strategic committee for the \$250 million investment fund, Equity 253, which aims to promote diversity and inclusion within SMEs and private technology companies in Quebec and across Canada, she actively participates in investment decisions and contributes to the fund's strategy.

Ms. Boucher is a member of the Advisory Committee on Derivatives Regulation at the Autorité des marchés financiers (AMF) and represents the Caisse de dépôt on the Canadian Market Infrastructure Committee (CMIC). She also serves on the board of directors of the Montreal North-Central Employment Research Club.

She holds an MBA in Finance and Information Technology from HEC, a Bachelor of Laws degree from the University of Montreal, the title of Chartered Administrators (Adm. A) from the Chartered Administrators Order of Quebec, and accreditation in Civil, Commercial, and Labor Mediation from the Quebec Bar Association. She is also a member of the Quebec Bar Association.

James Burron, CAIA

Co-Founder & Partner CAASA

James co-founded CAASA in response to industry support for a Canadian alternatives association to serve all aspects including: hedge / alternative strategies; private lending; private real estate; private equity; plus emerging areas where Canada is a leader such as digital assets / blockchain and robo-advisors.

Prior to CAASA, James was the Chief Operating Officer of AIMA Canada where his team of three worked with 12 committees to produce 50-60 events per annum across Canada, organized 100+ committee meetings, and increase member numbers over his 7-year tenue from 66 to 164 corporate entities.

James currently sits on the Canadian Investment Funds Standards Committee (CIFSC), which categorizes mutual funds and alternative mutual funds (aka liquid alternatives) for the retail space in Canada. He is also called upon by membership and industry groups to speak to risk ratings and portfolio placement of all types of alternative investments.

James also has experience in research and writing for the CAIA Association (holding the designation since 2006) as well as serving on CAIA's exam council and as a grader for the Level II portion of the exam. He had roles in institutional sales and FoHF structuring in Seoul, South Korea, as a Product Manager at ICICI Wealth Management, and as an Investment Advisor at RBC Dominion Securities. James graduated from Simon Fraser University with a BBA (Finance).





# **SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES**

Dr. Tolga Cenesizoglu, PhD Finance Professor **HEC Montréal** 



Tolga Cenesizoglu is a finance professor at HEC Montreal, where he has been since 2006. He currently serves as the Director of the Canadian Derivatives Institute, an institute specializing in research and training programs in finance, particularly in derivatives. Prof. Cenesizoglu is also involved with the BNI-HEC Montreal Fund, overseeing \$5.5 million in student-run assets.

He held positions as an associate professor of finance at Alliance Manchester Business School, adjunct faculty at Warwick Business School, and visiting faculty at London School of Economics and Political Science. He earned his Ph.D. in economics from the University of California, San Diego (UCSD), along with an M.Sc. in statistics, an M.A. in economics from UCSD, and a B.Sc. in industrial engineering from Bogazici University, Turkive.

Prof. Cenesizoglu currently teaches Portfolio Management in the M.Sc. in Finance and Financial Engineering programs at HEC Montreal. He has also taught courses in empirical methods in finance, investments, and corporate finance at various academic levels. His research interests encompass empirical and theoretical asset pricing, financial econometrics, forecasting, machine learning, and market microstructure. His scholarly work has been published in respected journals such as Management Science, Journal of Financial Econometrics, Journal of Banking and Finance, Journal of Empirical Finance, Journal of Financial Markets, Journal of Financial Research, International Journal of Forecasting, Journal of Forecasting, Energy, and Macroeconomic Dynamics.

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Skip Cooper Managing Director **Cooper Family Office** 

Skip Cooper is a first-generation member of the Cooper Family Office. Skip oversees risk management. portfolio allocation and back office operations. In addition to the office's US-based alternative investing, his primary focus for the family office is investment internationally: in private equity, hedge funds, real estate and direct opportunities. Mr. Cooper is an honors graduate of Princeton University.

Skip Cooper is a member of the NYU Stern Family Office Council and the Stanford University Global Projects Center Global Investor's Forum. Skip speaks regularly at family office and investment conferences around the world, often addressing the topic of global investing for US family offices.

### **Christoph Dietrich**

Director and Portfolio Manager Ontario Teachers' Pension Plan (OTPP)

Christoph Dietrich is a Director and portfolio manager in OTPP's External Managers Group, focusing on liquid absolute return investments. His main areas of expertise are quantitative equity and futures, commodities and derivatives relative value. Prior to joining OTPP he spent eight years on the sell-side with a primary focus on structuring commodity guantitative strategies and volatility relative value strategies at Bank of America Merrill Lynch. Christoph earned a master's degree in Finance from Sciences Po Paris.

#### Constance Everson, CFA

Managing Director Capital Markets Outlook Group

Connie Everson is Managing Director of the economic & investment strategy consulting firm, Capital Markets Outlook Group (CMOG) in Boston, which she founded with a colleague in 1992. The firm has managed to identify every major turning point for major asset classes since its founding. Connie is represented on the CFA Institute Speakers Bureau, and is a past-president of the Boston Economic Club. She serves on the investment committee of Mass PRIM, the pension fund for public employees in Massachusetts, and investment and audit committees of the Weredale Foundation in her native Montreal.

#### **Mohamed Farid**

Principal Portfolio Manager World Bank Pension Plan

Mohamed Farid is a Principal Portfolio Manager at the Pension Fund of the World Bank Group. He is responsible for managing both the Absolute Return, and the long-only Developed Equities portfolios. Mohamed has over 20 years of experience investing directly in hedge funds. He is also an active member of the Investment Committee of the Pension Fund. Prior to joining the World Bank, Mohamed worked for Deloitte & Touche and KPMG financial consulting groups in Toronto, Canada, Washington D.C, Egypt and Thailand where he led acquisitions and bankruptcy engagements for leading clients in North America and Asia. Mohamed started his career in commercial banking and worked in several positions related to Treasury and Trade finance functions.

He holds a Master's degree from the Johns Hopkins University in International Economics and Political Science as well as a Master's degree in Banking and Finance from Finafrica Foundation in Milan, Italy.











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# **SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES**

Matthew J Freedman, CFA, CAIA Chief Investment Officer Louisiana School Employees' Retirement System (LSERS)

Matt joined LSERS as CIO in 2017, where he is responsible for managing the System's \$2 billion investment portfolio.

Prior to LSERS, Matt worked at Landseer Advisors, a New York–based OCIO firm primarily serving endowment and foundation clients, where he was a generalist investing across asset classes and strategies globally.

Before Landseer, Matt was a Vice President at investment technology firm Novus. He began his career at State Street advising institutional clients on asset allocation, manager selection, and portfolio risk management. He holds a M.S. in Finance from Boston College, a B.A. in Political Science and Government from Washington University in St. Louis, and both the CFA and CAIA charters.

He is a member of the Investment Committee at The National WWII Museum in New Orleans.

John Hynes Chief Executive Officer HedgeFacts

John Hynes is the Chief Executive Officer at HedgeFacts, a leading provider of cloud hosted middle & back office outsourced solutions to allocators and investment managers. John previously held various at Barcalys Bank and Allied Irish Banks after starting his career with PwC. John holds a BA from Trinity College Dublin and is a qualified Chartered Accountant.

#### **Stacy Joe**

Manager, Operational Due Diligence University Pension Plan Ontario (UPP)

Stacy Joe is UPP's Manager, Operational Due Diligence, responsible for conducting initial and ongoing operational due diligence on UPP's current and prospective investment managers across asset classes, including hedge funds, private equity, real estate, and infrastructure.

With expertise across operational risk and controls, Stacy is a trusted partner to UPP's Investment, Responsible Investing, and Compliance teams, and has contributed to establishing and implementing UPP's inaugural Operational Due Diligence program.

Prior to joining UPP, Stacy held roles as an investment analyst and consulting analyst at Mercer. She holds a Bachelor of Engineering Science in Civil Engineering from Western University and an Honours Business Administration (HBA) from Ivey Business School.



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# **SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES**

### Mohamed Khalfallah

Senior Director, Data Science & AI PSP Investments



Mohamed Khalfallah is Senior Director, Data Science & AI at PSP Investments. He joined PSP in January 2020 and has focused on developing and deploying solutions to both improve productivity and decision-making processes across PSP investment activities. Mohamed and his team are responsible for multiple internal AI/ ML products, including ML predictive models used in public and private market investing as well as generative AI tools.

Before stepping into his role at PSP Investments, Mohamed spent 13 years as leading and building ML/AI products in multiple industries, including asset management, P&C insurance, e-commerce, and retail. His work on delivering AI tools has spanned continents, having led projects in Europe, Asia, and North America for small and large companies.

Mohamed holds a master's in engineering from ISIMA (France) and a master's in Asset Management from Paris-Dauphine University (France).

**Raj Kohli**, CFA Associate Director, Absolute Return Strategies University Pension Plan Ontario (UPP)



Raj Kohli, CFA, is Associate Director, Absolute Return Strategies, in the Public Markets division at University Pension Plan (UPP) in Toronto. He is a trusted advisor who provides strategic counsel and leadership on UPP's absolute return investment strategy, with a focus on fixed income, credit, and discretionary global macro strategies.

Raj has more than 15 years of experience as a portfolio manager, and asset allocator at large financial institutions across North America. He has deep expertise in allocation across traditional and alternative asset classes, with a specialization in hedge funds.

Prior to joining UPP, Raj was Vice President of Multi Asset Class Mandates at Cidel Asset Management in Toronto, with responsibility for the management of discretionary and advisory portfolios for institutional and high net-worth clients.

Raj earned his Professional Master of Science in Financial Mathematics from Worcester Polytechnic Institute in Massachusetts, and his Bachelor of Science (Honors) in computer science and applied mathematics from the New Jersey Institute of Technology.

**Ju Hui Lee**, CFA, CAIA, FSA, FCIA, CERA, FRM *Head of Market Risk* United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund

Ju Hui Lee is the Head of Market Risk of UNJSPF (United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund), responsible for investment risk oversight, asset-lability management, and performance. The fund manages assets of US\$84 billion as of 30 June 2023.

Ju Hui's career spans across various financial institutions, including CPP Investments, Scotiabank, KPMG, Mercer, and Manulife Financial. Her expertise includes asset-liability analysis, factor studies, modelling, pension investment strategy development, risk management activities, and actuarial valuation reporting.

Ju Hui holds a BSc in Mathematics, an MBA from Yonsei University in Korea, and an MSc in Financial Mathematics from the University of Chicago. Ju Hui holds CFA, CAIA, FSA, FCIA, CERA, and FRM designations.

### Éric Lemieux

Senior Manager, Investment Structure Management Caisse de dépôt et placement du Québec (CDPQ)

Éric Lemieux is Senior Manager, Investment structure management at Caisse de dépôt et placement du Québec (CDPQ). His role is to ensure that all structure, business and operational risks are assessed and mitigated, both in the pre- and post-investment phases, as well as to negotiate and support deal implementation.

Éric has held other positions at CDPQ, including Managing Director Funds, Private Markets. Éric joined CDPQ in 2009 and has previously worked at National Bank of Canada and Royal Bank of Canada. Eric holds a BSc and a BAA from Sherbrooke University.

### Mingjie Liu

Portfolio Manager, Pension Investment Department World Bank Group

Mingjie Liu is a Portfolio Manager at the Pension Investment Department of the World Bank Group. She is responsible for managing the Absolute Return, long-only Developed Equities, and Opportunistic portfolios. Mingjie joined the World Bank in 2020. Prior to joining the World Bank, Mingjie worked at Duke Management Company (DUMAC) for 4 years.

Mingjie holds a Master of Economics degree from Duke University and she is a CFA charterholder.





### Oleg Mogilny, CFA

Managing Director of Public Market Alternatives Investment Management Corporation of Ontario (IMCO)



Oleg Mogilny is Managing Director of Public Market Alternatives. He heads IMCO's investments in hedge fund strategies, Insurance Linked Securities, royalties and other strategies with an objective to deliver diversification and absolute returns. Oleg has over 20 years of experience in research and portfolio management of multi-asset portfolios. Prior to joining IMCO in 2019, Oleg led the Quantitative Strategies and Research group at Ontario Teachers' Pension Plan (OTPP). In this role he was responsible for systematic absolute return strategies, quantitative investing in equities and investment-focused data science initiatives. Oleg's other roles during his 16-year career at OTPP included managing equity portfolio strategy, hedging and thematic investing, research and implementation of macro strategies, portfolio construction and asset allocation research.

Oleg holds an MBA from McGill University and a Master's degree in Economics from Kyiv School of Economics. He is a CFA charterholder.

Tarik Serri, CFA, CAIA Senior Director, Hedge Funds & Alternative Investments Trans-Canada Capital Inc.



Tarik Serri is Senior Director, Hedge Funds & Alternative Investments at Trans-Canada Capital Inc. (TCC) since 2011. He has cumulated over 18 years of investment experience having previously worked as an analyst and investment advisor at prior institutions. He is responsible for the ongoing management, selection, monitoring and research of TCC's Hedge Fund and Alternative Investment portfolios including Private Debt, Real Estate, Infrastructure, Co-Investments, etc. Tarik is a voting member of the External Management Investment Committee (EMIC) responsible for the selection & management of the firm's external managers and asset allocation decisions as well as the assessment of illiquid/liquid co-investment investment opportunities. He serves as an Advisory Board member of multiple external funds across alternative asset classes.

Tarik holds a Bachelor of Commerce degree from Concordia University and a Masters of Business Administration (MBA) from HEC University. He has also completed the Canadian Securities Course offered by the Canadian Securities Institute and is a CFA and CAIA charter holder. He is also a recipient of the NextGen CIO 2019 nomination by CIO Magazine and Hedge Fund Rising Star 2023 by Institutional Investor.

#### Annie Sorich, MBA Senior Director, Strategic Planning PSP Investments

Annie Sorich is Managing Director, Strategic Planning, at the Public Sector Pension Investment Board (PSP Investments). She is responsible for facilitating the constant evolution and execution of PSP's corporate strategy, ensuring strategic decisions enhance PSP's market positioning and corporate effectiveness. She also oversees PSP's annual planning process. With over 18 years of experience in the financial services industry, Annie has deep industry knowledge and expertise in public and private markets as well as technology and data.

Prior to joining PSP Investments in 2018, Annie worked at a cybersecurity start-up and spent six years at the Charter School Growth Fund, the largest impact investment fund focused on public education in the United States. She started her career at Morningstar, Inc., where she was a mutual fund and equities analyst and worked on cutting-edge data projects.

Annie holds an MBA with Honors from the University of Chicago Booth School of Business, and attended Oberlin College, where she received her Bachelor of Arts degree in biology, Phi Beta Kappa.

Cordell W. Thomas II Enterprise Risk Management General Motors Asset Management (GMAM)

Cordell currently serves within General Motors Asset Management's (GMAM) Enterprise Risk Management team; and is responsible for leading operational due diligence reviews on both alternative and traditional asset managers within GM's Defined Benefit and Defined Contribution plans across the US, Canada, Belgium, and the UK. Prior to GMAM, Cordell worked at Mercer Sentinel, Mercer Investments' operational due diligence consulting group. While at Mercer Sentinel, Cordell performed operational due diligence on alternative and traditional asset managers for both external and internal clients. During his over 20 years experience in the asset management industry, Cordell has served in various roles within reputable firms including Morgan Stanley Fund Services, Citco Fund Services, Société Générale and BNY Mellon Wealth Management. He has worked with both alternative and traditional asset managers of various sizes, strategies and geographic locations including North America, Europe, and Asia.

### Razvan Tonea, CFA

Director. Public Markets CAAT Pension Plan

Razvan Tonea is Director, Public Markets at CAAT Pension Plan. He plays a key role in the management of the public markets program at CAAT, including investment in hedge funds, fixed-income, credit, commodities, currencies, equities and overlay mandates.

Razvan joined CAAT in 2020 and has over 20 years of relevant experience in the financial industry, including senior investment roles at another Canadian pension plan, PSP Investments. Razvan is a CFA charterholder and has an MBA from McGill University.

# **SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES**







Dr. Niall Whelan, PhD Risk Executive Bodhi Research Group



Niall Whelan is a risk executive with over twenty years experience implementing new and emerging industry practices and regulations. He is a trusted change agent, experienced at leading complex cross-functional initiatives. Areas of specialisation include climate scenario modelling, enterprise risk, enterprise stress testing, credit modelling for IFRS 9 and CECL, and models for market and counterparty credit risk. Niall is a thought leader who has presented in industry forums, has led training sessions, has published peer-reviewed papers, and teaches the next generation of risk leaders.

He has been a trusted mentor and coach for numerous individuals throughout his career, many of whom are now in senior roles across the industry. Niall coordinates the risk course at the Master's of Mathematical Finance at the University of Toronto as well as serving on the academic advisory board of the Masters of Quantitative Finance at the University of Waterloo.

Prior to joining forces with Bodhi Research Group, Niall spent over 20 years at the Bank of Nova Scotia leading teams involved in various aspects of risk. Previously he was an academic researcher, investigating the boundary between classical and quantum physics. He is the author of dozens of research papers which have garnered thousands of citations. His research took him to leading research institutes in Copenhagen and Paris.

He holds a PhD in theoretical physics from Yale University.

Dr. Erkan Yönder. PhD Associate Professor of Real Estate and Finance | Chair, Finance Department John Molson School of Business - Concordia University



Dr. Erkan Yönder is an Associate Professor of Real Estate Finance and serves as the Chair of the Finance Department at John Molson School of Business, Concordia University.

With a primary focus on real estate finance, Erkan's expertise lies in commercial real estate, commercial mortgages, and sustainable real estate. His recent works mainly focus on the critical intersection of climate issues in the real estate industry. Erkan's research has found its way into esteemed academic journals, including publications in the Review of Finance and Real Estate Economics.

His projects have secured multiple grants from renowned institutions such as the National Pension Hub (NPH), Real Estate Research Institute (RERI), and the European Public Real Estate Association (EPRA). Notably, his research earned him the Nick Tyrrell Real Estate Research Prize in the UK and the distinguished Best Published Article Award from Principles for Responsible Investment (PRI), a United Nations-supported initiative.

Erkan has had the privilege of presenting his scholarly work at some of the world's leading universities, including MIT, Yale University, the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA), and Cornell University.

Erkan received his PhD degree in Finance and Real Estate at Maastricht University in 2013.

## ADVANTAGE THROUGH INSIGHT

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Dr. Ranjan Bhaduri PhD CFA CAIA M.Math MBA B.Sc. (Honours) Founder & Chief Executive Officer

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## Asset Allocation Strategies Adjust to Rising Pressure from Externalities

Private markets are an area where Canadian asset owners continue to see opportunities to diversify portfolios, increase alpha and reduce risk.

The diversification into alternative asset classes is anticipated to rise in the Canadian pension fund investing space, according to forthcoming research from CIBC Mellon. 70% of asset owners raised their exposure to alternative asset classes and privately-owned assets, such as funds of hedge funds, private equity, real estate, and liquid alternatives.

For more information about CIBC Mellon's research projects, please contact:

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Gord Kosokowsky Executive Director, Relationship Development and Segment Co-lead, Asset Managers +1 416 643 6369 www.cibcmellon.com

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