

Call for papers VBA Journaal Spring 2023

Myths, fallacies, rules of thumb and beliefs

Dealing with risks and uncertainties on a daily basis is an inherent part of life. No one knows what the future holds for us and that is why every investment decision also entails a large degree of uncertainty. Nevertheless, investors often look for something to go on - for instance pieces of wisdom such as: *“Diversification is the only free lunch in investing”* (Harry Markowitz), *“Markets can remain irrational longer than you can remain solvent”* (John Maynard Keynes) and *“Whether we’re talking about socks or stocks, I like buying quality merchandise when it is marked down”* (Warren Buffet).

In our spring issue we will track down patterns and rules of thumb that investors can rely on. And at the same time, we would like to prove that some of the dogmas that are unjustly being followed are actually myths. Our idea is to publish research articles as well as opinion pieces. The following questions may serve as a source of inspiration; the editors are also open to receiving articles that in some way offer investors something to go on or help them avoid pitfalls.

1. What are the generally accepted beliefs and often-used rules of thumb with regard to Asset & Liability Management, Strategic Asset Allocation and Tactical Asset Allocation or in fact on the level of a particular asset class, such as equities, bonds and private equity? Act as a fact checker and indicate, based on experience and research, how accurate each of the identified beliefs and rules is.
2. You could use the same method for examining other aspects of investing, such as risk management, trading and performance measurement. What are useful beliefs and rules of thumb for those areas, and which are losing their validity?
3. What about the beliefs regarding Responsible Investment and ESG? Which are based on facts, which are half-truths and which are just plain nonsense?
4. What relationships between macroeconomic developments and investment returns can be identified? Should you be invested in value stocks and commodities when inflation and interest rates are rising? Does the stock market run six months ahead of the actual economic developments? Which relationships are worth printing and framing and which should be dismissed as myths?
5. Many investment organisations have defined investment beliefs. Exactly why did they put those beliefs on paper? How are beliefs used in practice and how do they help the organisation to make choices and navigate during times of uncertainty?

By means of this call for papers we invite interested authors to contact the editorial team (irma.willemsen@cfavba.nl) no later than 31 October 2022. Contributions must be original articles that have not previously been published elsewhere and must comply with the style instructions <https://cfavba.nl/uploads/vbajournaal/VBA%20Journaal%20stijlinstructie.pdf>.