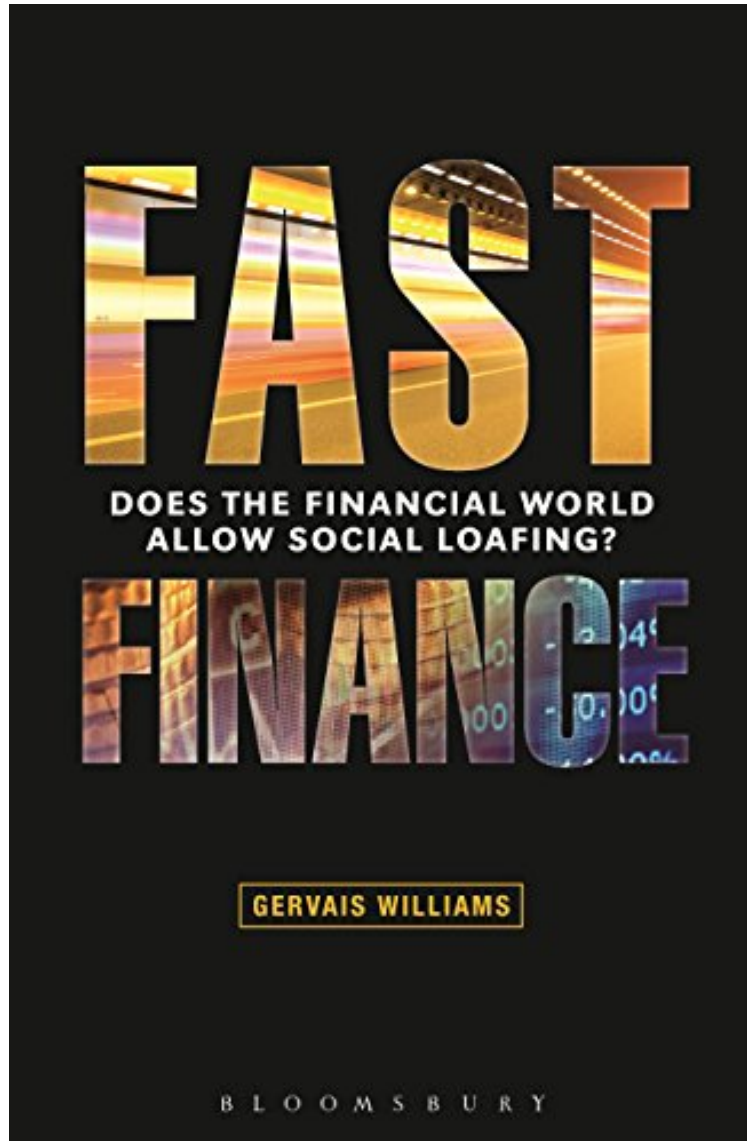


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Fast Finance: Does the financial world allow social loafing?

Gervais Williams

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Gervais Williams : Fast Finance: Does the financial world allow social loafing? before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Fast Finance: Does the financial world allow social loafing?:

Market liquidity is an essential feature of the stock market, so investors and corporates can transact as and when it suits them. A key priority for stock market operators is to ensure there are market participants with a wide range of

different perspectives, which offer plentiful trading volumes. Stock exchanges need to encourage investors with shorter-term horizons to lubricate the transaction process; the vitality of shorter-term operators is a key part of the success of the whole. However, in recent times the proliferation of credit has favoured speculative strategies, and along with new technologies, trading volumes have been driven up by the speed at which data is accessed and put to use. Consequently, market participants optimise their strategies for quick returns and become largely disconnected from, or potentially in conflict with, the wider interests of longer-term investors. This is the 'fast finance' problem. In this new chapter of *Slow Finance*, Gervais Williams builds on his previous work to further consider the problems and solutions for today's financial markets. He suggests that the debate, which has focused on the computerised algorithms that instigate rapid automated buy or sell orders at remote exchanges, needs to be extended further and a more forward-looking policy that brings the parallel markets together into one physical location to concentrate market volumes, be implemented. Based on his extensive industry experience Gervais Williams outlines: Market liquidity stock markets sect; Liquidity changes over recent decades, and the scope to game the system sect; Addressing the problems of high frequency traders sect; The overlooked problem ndash; how markets fragmented geographically during the boom sect; Fostering true market liquidity beyond the credit boom to aid productivity growth