

CAREERS IN FINANCE AND INTERVIEW TIPS

SPEAKERS' BIOGRAPHIES

Moderator:

JAMES BURRON, CAIA

James co-founded CAASA in response to industry support for a Canadian alternatives association to serve all aspects including: hedge / alternative strategies; liquid alternatives; 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 he and his team arranged 50-60 events annually across Canada and organized 100+ committee meetings. He also has experience in research and writing got the CAIA Association and in serving in CAIA's exam council. 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).

James currently sits on the Canadian Investment Funds Standards Committee (CIFSC) and is also called upon by membership and industry groups to speak to risk ratings and portfolio placement of all types of alternative investments.

Panelists:

ELA KARAHASANOGLU, MBA, CFA, CAIA

Ela Karahasanoglu advises institutional investors and asset managers on alternative investments, risk mitigation and portfolio construction from a total portfolio perspective. Previously, Ela led the Total Fund Management team at BCI. With roughly \$200bn of managed assets, BCI is a leading provider of investment management services for British Columbia's public sector.

Prior to joining BCI, Ela was a Managing Director, Multi-Asset Strategies at Investment Management Corporation of Ontario and WSIB, where Ela oversaw the \$8.5bn Multi-Asset Strategies portfolio and acted as the Deputy CIO leading the investment team that managed WSIB's \$35bn portfolio. Before WSIB, Ela was the Vice President of Currency and Asset Allocation team at CIBC Asset Management. Prior to that, she was a Principal and Senior Manager Research Consultant in the Alternatives team within Mercer, covering a broad set of absolute return and hedge fund strategies.

Ela was previously the Head of Research and Trading for six years at a New York-based quantitative macro hedge fund and also worked in the areas of credit derivatives and asset management at Merrill Lynch, New York. Ela started out her career as a currency and bond trader in Turkey.

Ela has over 20 years' experience in the investment industry with over 13 years dedicated to research, trading, portfolio management and construction in the alternatives and absolute return space.

Ela holds a Master of Business Administration from Georgetown University. She has been a CFA Charterholder since 2002 and a CAIA Charterholder since 2010. Ela serves as the Co-Head for CAIA's Toronto Chapter.

ESTHER ZURBA

Esther Zurba is a Director with Castle Hall, responsible for lending subject matter expertise across Castle Hall Diligence's ongoing product development and client engagements. Esther has more than 20 years of professional experience including over 15 years conducting operational due diligence on global investment managers across all asset classes. Esther joined Castle Hall Diligence in 2012 from Scotia Capital's Trade Operations and Risk Control group, where she conducted ODD on external asset managers supporting multiple business lines.

Prior to joining Scotia Capital, Esther worked with Mapleridge Capital, a Toronto based short-term systematic CTA. Esther holds an MBA from Richard Ivey School of Business at the University of Western Ontario, and BA (Hons) from University of Toronto.

Esther is also a CAIA charterholder and has been actively involved with the CAIA Association since 2007 in various capacities, including as current co-head of the CAIA Toronto Chapter. Esther is also a member of AIMA Canada's Legal, Finance & Compliance Committee.

SABRINE SANON

Sabrina Sanon is a MSc Corporate Finance candidate at EDHEC Business School. She previously worked as an Investment Analyst at Private Debt Partners in Montreal; and as a Commercial Banking Associate at CIBC in Winnipeg.

Sabrina holds a Bachelor of Commerce from the Asper School of Business at the University of Manitoba.