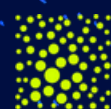


# Scientific Beta Days Europe 2026

24-25 March, 2026 | Paris



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An SGX Group Company

# Scientific Beta Days Europe 2026

24-25 March, 2026 | Etoile St Honoré, Paris

Our flagship conference will be held at the heart of Paris at Etoile Saint-Honoré on March 24–25, 2026.

For the first time, the event comes to Paris, offering a new setting to connect, learn, and exchange ideas with peers from across the investment community.

This year's programme will cover cutting-edge research addressing the challenges of international diversification in such a concentrated market and how to leverage machine learning in factor investing.

Our research team will also discuss if sustainability data can enhance portfolio performance, highlighting new research on ESG Information and exploring how fact-based ESG scores can address investors' sustainability preferences.

The refreshed two-day format will feature:

- Dynamic plenary sessions showcasing Scientific Beta's latest research;
- Interactive discussions with senior industry leaders providing latest market insights;
- Case studies and roundtables highlighting practical applications for investors.



# Day 1 - Tuesday, 24 March, 2026

09:15am-9:45am: Breakfast & Registration

## 9:45am-10:00am: Introduction

Master of Ceremony:

*Marianne Piqueret, Head of North America & Continental Europe, Scientific Beta*

## 10:00am-10:45am: Is Now the Time to Diversify?

- Investors have been raising doubts about the benefits of diversification.
- Given US Equities extreme level of market concentration and valuations, what investors should expect over the next 10 years for diversified strategies?

Speaker:

*Felix Goltz, PhD, Research Director, Scientific Beta*

## 10:45am-11:30am: Designing Factor Strategies to Address Absolute or Benchmark-Relative Risks

- How can we design factor strategies to address different risk objectives?
- What are the implications for investors?
- How to mitigate unintended risks via risk control options to improve risk management?

Chair:

*Warwick Schneller, PhD, CFA, Head of Investment Solutions, Australia & New Zealand, Scientific Beta*

Speaker:

*Ben Luyten, Principal Quantitative Research Analyst, Scientific Beta*

11:30am-12:00pm: Morning Break

## 12:00pm-12:45pm: When ESG Is Not a Persistent Return Driver, Investors Need to Manage the Trade-Offs and Risks

- Investors are using more and more sustainability data to build their equity portfolios.
- Are these sustainability data useful to improve equity portfolios risk-adjusted performance in real-world conditions?

Chair:

*Vera Cady, Senior Investment Specialist, Scientific Beta*

Speaker:

*Giovanni Bruno, PhD, Senior Quantitative Researcher, Scientific Beta*

12:45pm-1:30pm: Lunch Break

## 1:30pm-2:00: Case Study – The Benefits of 130/30 Single Factor Strategies

- How to build robust 130/30 single factor strategies?
- What are their benefits of Scientific Beta 130/30 single factor indices and how can we use them to enhance investors equity portfolios?

Chair:

*Warwick Schneller, PhD, CFA, Head of Investment Solutions, Australia & New Zealand, Scientific Beta*

Speaker:

*Ioan Mirciov, PhD, Index Director, Scientific Beta*

## 2:00pm-2:30pm: Case Study – iEdge Thematic Indices

- How investors can address thematic investing using iEdge Thematic indices?

Speaker:

*Mohit Baheti, Head, iEdge Indices*



### 2:30pm-3:15pm: Improving Risk Forecasts with Machine Learning

- Market beta control is a key risk feature of systematic strategies that seek to fully capture or hedge out the market premium.
- Machine learning can complement traditional statistical methods to improve market beta forecasts.
- Investors can enhance the risk management of their portfolios with Machine Learning.

Chair:

*Erik Christiansen, Head of Investment Solutions, Scientific Beta*

Speaker:

*Ioan Mirciov, PhD, Index Director, Scientific Beta*



3:15pm-3:45pm: Afternoon Break

### 3:45pm-4:30pm: Benefiting from Complex Return Signals in Real World Investing

- Machine learning can add genuine value to real-world equity investment.
- The gains are considerably more modest than headline results suggest.
- Rigorous implementation discipline and the use of broader set of economically relevant information are key.

Speaker:

*Mikheil Esakia, Senior Quantitative Research Analyst, Scientific Beta*



### 4:30pm-5:15pm: Roundtable – Overcoming the Challenges of Black Box AI Algorithms

Panellists:

- *Mikheil Esakia, Senior Quantitative Research Analyst, Scientific Beta*
- *Felix Goltz, Research Director, Scientific Beta*
- *Maxime Ricomes, Allocation & Selection Director, Mercer, a Marsh Business*
- *Robinson Rouchie, Chief Investment Officer for Systematic and Quantitative Investments, BNP Paribas Asset Management*

Moderator:

- *Katya Nelyudova, Chief Revenue Officer, Scientific Beta*



5:15pm-6:30pm: Drinks Reception

## Day 2 - Wednesday, 25 March, 2026

09:00am-9:30am: Breakfast & Registration

### 9:30am-09:45am: Introduction

Master of Ceremony:

*Ilan Heimann, CFA, Head of Business Development UK & Nordics, Scientific Beta*

### 9:45am-11:00am: Harvesting Commodity Factor Premia with Improved Multi-Asset Diversification

- Commodities provide diversification to equities and bonds.
- A limited set of risk factors explain commodity returns.
- How can investors efficiently capture the premium of commodity risk factors while ensuring diversification with equities?
- How portfolio decarbonization in commodity futures can advance climate objectives without sacrificing financial performance?

Chair:

*Vera Cady, Senior Investment Specialist, Scientific Beta*

Speakers:

*Joëlle Miffre, Professor of Finance, Audencia Business School*

*Ioan Mirciov, PhD, Index Director, Scientific Beta*

### 11:00am-11:30am: Case-Study – Fact-Based Metrics to Overcome Subjective Biases

- Investors are voicing frustration with available ESG metrics, which are subjective “opinions”, not objective “data”.
- How can we build reliable and fact-based sustainability metrics?
- How can investors ensure financing companies that needs it most?

Chair:

*Warwick Schneller, PhD, CFA, Head of Investment Solutions, Australia & New Zealand, Scientific Beta*

Speaker:

*Antoine Naly, CFA, Senior Quantitative Researcher, Scientific Beta*

11:30am-12:00pm: Morning Break

### 12:00pm-12:45pm: Case Study – Managing Climate Transition Risk and Opportunities with Climate+ Indices

- How to design a climate index to reduce exposure to assets with high climate transition risks while capturing the opportunities?
- How can investors make sure that their limited tracking error budget is fully used to achieve their sustainability goals?

Chair:

*Vera Cady, Senior Investment Specialist, Scientific Beta*

Speaker:

*Erik Christiansen, Head of Investment Solutions, Scientific Beta*

12:45pm-1:45pm: Lunch Break

### 1:45pm-2:30pm: Restoring International Equity Diversification Benefits

- International investors are exposed more than ever to US equities and its risks : extreme market concentration, stretched valuations and mounting economic concerns.
- How can investors optimally allocate between US and Ex-US equities to restore international diversification benefits?

Chair:

*Vera Cady, Senior Investment Specialist, Scientific Beta*

Speaker:

*Felix Goltz, PhD, Research Director, Scientific Beta*

### 2:30pm-3:15pm: Roundtable – Addressing US Dominance in International Equity Benchmarks

Panellists:

- *Michael Ashworth, Head of Investments (Public Markets), Greater Manchester Pension Fund*
- *Felix Goltz, Research Director, Scientific Beta*
- *Olivier Rousseau, Consultant and former co-CEO at FRR (Fonds de Réserve pour les Retraites)*
- *Corrado Tiralongo, Chief Investment Officer, Canada Life Investment Management*

Moderator:

- *Marianne Piqueret, Head of North America & Continental Europe, Scientific Beta*

3:15pm-3:45pm: Afternoon Break

**3:45pm-4:30pm: Case study – SGX Group Derivatives – Navigating Challenges and Unlocking Opportunities in Asia**

In this session, we present how AM/AO's are using derivatives to risk manage their portfolios.

Speaker:

*Matthew Judge, European Head of Sales, SGX Group*



**4:30pm-5:15pm: Addressing Controversial Weapons in Equity Portfolios**

- Defence companies have skyrocketed following pledged from European countries to double their defence budgets.
- Investors applying controversial weapons screens have been revisiting their policies.
- We analyse the impact of such screens on equity portfolios.

Speaker:

*Erik Christiansen, Head of Investment Solutions, Scientific Beta*



5:15pm: End of the Conference



# Our Speakers



## **Mohit Baheti, Head, iEdge Indices**

With over 17 years of experience in the index industry, Mohit is the Global Head of iEdge Indices at SGX, where he leads a team of index specialists to develop and deliver innovative and customized index solutions for global investors. Mohit has a Master's degree in Finance from London Business School and two professional certifications in ESG investing and risk management. He has a strong background in benchmark administration and index development, having worked at Citi and Deutsche Bank in the past.



## **Giovanni Bruno, PhD, Senior Quantitative Researcher, Scientific Beta**

Giovanni Bruno, PhD, is Senior Quantitative Researcher at Scientific Beta. His research focuses on asset pricing. He earned his PhD in finance at the Norwegian School of Economics, where he also worked as a Teaching Assistant delivering courses on Investments, Derivatives and Risk Management and Quantitative Investment. His work appeared on academic and practitioner journals, such as the *Journal of Investing*, and *European Financial Management*. He holds a Master's Degree from LUISS Guido Carli University (Italy), where he obtained First-Class Honours in Quantitative Finance. Previously to his PhD, he held roles as a Consultant and a Quantitative Analyst with PricewaterhouseCoopers and Altran, respectively, where he specialised in Financial Risk Management.



## **Erik Christiansen, Head of Investment Solutions, Scientific Beta**

Erik Christiansen is Head of Investment Solutions at Scientific Beta. Working closely with the research, index construction and business development teams, he is a link between investors and Scientific Beta's research and index design capabilities. He identifies new needs, and market trends and communicates the value proposition of Scientific Beta's solutions to clients and other institutional investors. This includes both the flagship offering and the tailored investment strategies, and both factor indices and ESG/Climate offerings. He was previously Head of Investment Strategy with ERAFP, the mandatory pension scheme for French civil servants, where he was responsible for implementing the equity, asset allocation and ESG strategies. He has also previously worked as a Methodology Coordinator and Analyst at V.E, the ESG rating agency that is now part of Moody's ESG. Erik holds a Master's degree in Management from the ESCP Business School and is a CFA charterholder.



## **Mikheil Esakia, Senior Quantitative Research Analyst, Scientific Beta**

Mikheil Esakia is a Senior Quantitative Research Analyst at Scientific Beta and a PhD candidate at the EDHEC Business School. His research focuses on empirical asset pricing, and his work has been published in the *Financial Analysts Journal*, *Journal of Portfolio Management*, and *Journal of Investing*. Before joining Scientific Beta, he worked as an Operational Risk Analyst at Liberty Bank, Georgia. He holds a Master's degree in Finance from EDHEC Business School and a Bachelor's degree from Free University of Tbilisi. In 2023, Mikheil and Felix Goltz have won the 2023 Graham and Dodd Awards of Excellence for their recent research on Macroeconomic Exposures in Equity Portfolios.



## **Felix Goltz, PhD, Research Director, Scientific Beta**

Felix Goltz, PhD, is Research Director at Scientific Beta. He has been with Scientific Beta since inception. He carries out research in empirical finance and asset allocation, with a focus on alternative investments and indexing strategies. His work has appeared in various international academic and practitioner journals and handbooks, including the *Journal of Portfolio Management*, the *Financial Analysts Journal*, the *Journal of Index Investing*, the *Journal of Investment Management* and the *Handbook of Finance* (Wiley). He obtained an MSc and a PhD in finance from the University of Nice Sophia-Antipolis after studying economics and business administration at the University of Bayreuth and EDHEC Business School.



**Matthew Judge, Head of EMEA Sales, SGX Group**

Matthew Judge is an accomplished global sales leader with a proven track record in driving strategic growth, building high-performing teams, and delivering client-centric solutions across international markets. As Head of EMEA Sales at SGX Group since 2022, he plays a pivotal role in shaping commercial strategy, deepening client relationships, and unlocking new revenue opportunities across Derivatives and Securities.

Prior to joining SGX, Matthew spent 20 years at CME Group, where he focused on developing new markets and products, promoting the adoption of emerging technologies, and delivering market efficiencies. His earlier career includes roles at Thomson Reuters in the Treasury Services Group and at Citibank in Middle Office operations. With extensive experience across capital markets and financial services, Matthew is known for his ability to navigate complex environments, foster cross-border collaboration, and lead with integrity and vision. He brings a global perspective and a passion for innovation, client engagement, and sustainable growth to every conversation.



**Ben Luyten, Principal Quantitative Research Analyst, Scientific Beta**

Ben Luyten is a Principal Quantitative Research Analyst at Scientific Beta. His work centres on identifying risk and return drivers in equity portfolios, including macroeconomic risks and intangible capital. His research has been published in both academic and practitioner journals. Ben holds master's degrees in Financial Markets from EDHEC Business School and in Business Engineering from Hasselt University, Belgium. He is also a CFA charterholder.



**Joëlle Miffre, Professor of Finance, Audencia Business School**

Joëlle Miffre is Professor of Finance at Audencia Business School. Her research focuses on the pricing and management of commodities and equities. Her articles are published in academic journals such as *Management Science*, the *Review of Finance* and the *Journal of Banking and Finance*. She is Associate Editor of the *Journal of Banking and Finance*, the *Journal of Commodity Markets* and the *Journal of Futures Markets*. As testimony of the relevance of her research to the industry, she acted as consultant to various financial institutions on questions pertaining to the commercialization, structuring and price impact of commodity index products. Previous appointments include teaching and research positions at EDHEC Business School, Bayes Business School and the ICMA Centre. She holds a M.Sc. and a Ph.D. in Finance from Brunel University.



**Ioan Mirciov, PhD, Index Director, Scientific Beta**

Ioan Mirciov, PhD, is Index Director at Scientific Beta, focusing on the implementation of financial, sustainability and risk considerations into index design. Prior to his current role Ioan had been a quantitative researcher and portfolio manager at institutions including SEI Investments, Schroders and Maquarie where he researched, built and managed factor-based strategies and portfolios. Ioan holds a Ph.D. in Finance from the Kellogg School of Management, as well as engineering degrees from Ecole Polytechnique.



**Antoine Naly, CFA, Senior Quantitative Researcher, Scientific Beta**

Antoine Naly is a Senior Quantitative Researcher at Scientific Beta. His research focuses on the interactions between equity markets, ESG, and macroeconomic variables. He holds a Master's degree in Financial Economics from HEC Montréal, and previously studied finance and macroeconomics at Lyon 3 University and the University of British Columbia. Prior to joining Scientific Beta, he successively worked as an investment analyst in advisory services at Mercer, as a quantitative macro analyst in global macro research at PGM Global, and as a Macro ESG strategist at Sustainable Market Strategies. He is also a CFA Charterholder.

## Masters of Ceremonies



### **Ilan Heimann, CFA, Head of Business Development UK & Nordics, Scientific Beta**

Ilan Heimann leads Scientific Beta's business development in the UK & Nordics. Ilan has more than 25 years of asset management experience and held senior executive roles with organisations in the UK such as Goldman Sachs Asset Management, PIMCO, Alpima, and as Chief Revenue Officer for Allfunds WealthTech. Ilan is a CFA charterholder with a Master's degree in Business Finance.



### **Marianne PiquereI, Head of North America & Continental Europe, Scientific Beta**

Prior to joining Scientific Beta, Marianne had spent most of her career working in London and Paris for various investment banks as an Equity Derivatives Sales Manager for European clients. She began at BNP PARIBAS Arbitrage, working with structured products for clients in Southern Europe (ex-Spain), before joining Société Générale, Barclays Bank and Icap PLC in London. Marianne has a Master's in Finance from ESCP Business School and a MSG from Dauphine.

## About Scientific Beta

A subsidiary of SGX Group, Scientific Beta is a leading provider of enhanced systematic equity strategies.

Our evidence-based indices enable global investors to make well-informed portfolio decisions as they navigate complex and evolving markets.

Signatory of



ESG Investing  
Awards 2025

WINNER

Best ESG  
Index Provider

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24-25 March, 2026 | Etoile St Honoré, Paris

## Registrations:

Register Now for Complimentary Attendance:

<https://bit.ly/SBDays2026>

Or by scanning the QR Code



## Venue:

Etoile Saint-Honoré

21-25 rue Balzac, 75008 Paris

## Dates:

Tuesday, 24 March, 2026 and Wednesday, 25 March, 2026

## Enquiries?

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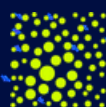
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