

# A Different Perspective on Risk Measurement, and Why It's Needed

A hand is holding a digital caliper, measuring the width of four wooden blocks arranged in a row on a wooden surface. The blocks are labeled with the letters 'R', 'I', 'S', and 'K' in black, serif font. The caliper's digital display shows the number '78.58'. The background is a blurred wooden surface.

David D. Spaulding, DPS, CIPM

Amsterdam Forum

17 June 2022



What is the meaning of ~~life~~ risk?

# What does risk mean to you?

What is the meaning of ~~life~~ risk?

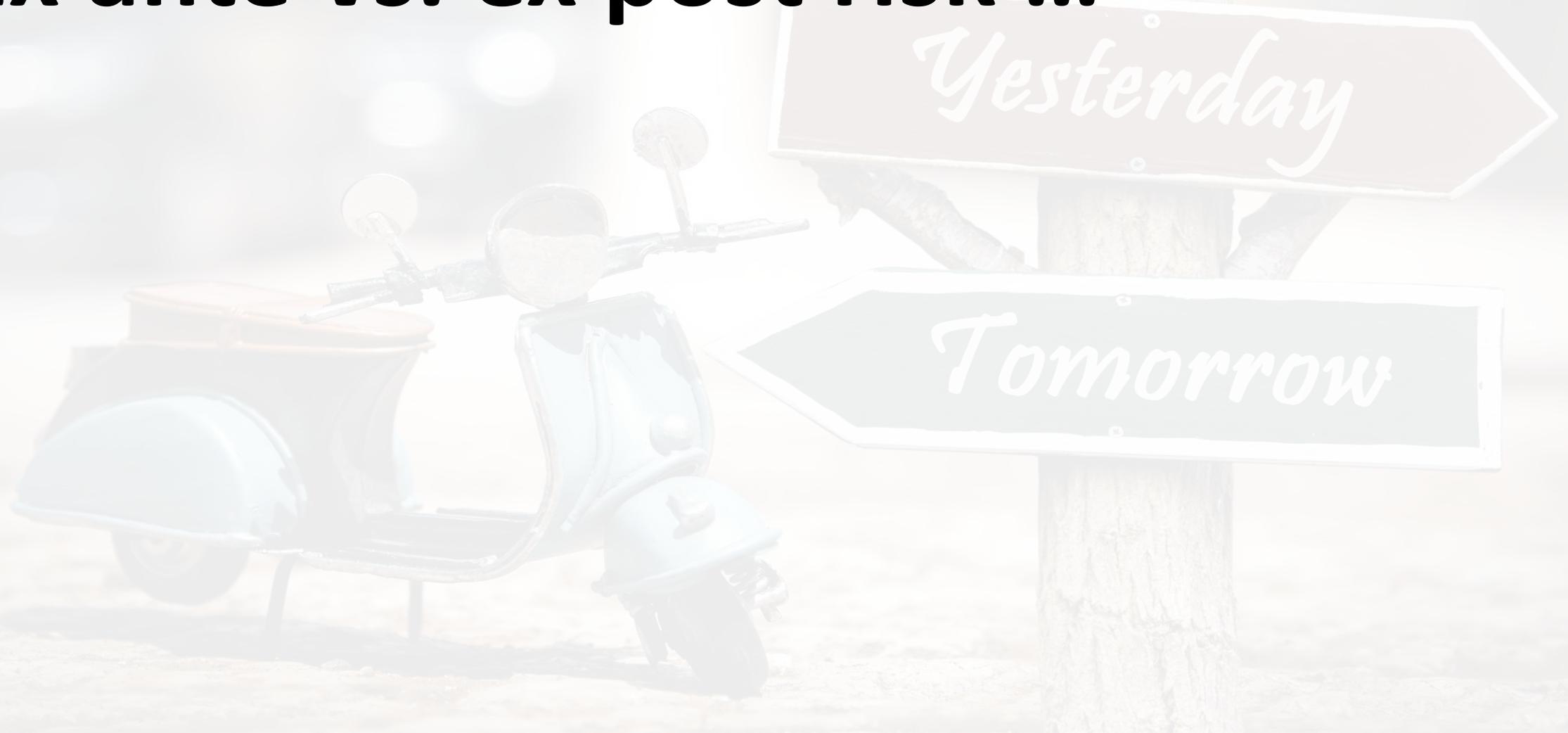
**Should our risk measures measure  
against this definition of risk?**

**If yes, do they?**

**If not, what are we measuring?**



# Ex ante vs. ex post risk ...



# *Ex ante* risk

- Typically not done within performance measurement department
- How accurate are these projections of future risk?
- Do we even assess this?

# *Ex post* risk

- Commonly done within performance measurement department
- Do the results address or align with the meaning of risk?
- Or, do they primarily assess volatility?

# Is volatility risk?



# Or, does it even measure risk?

# What do we measure against?



# What do we measure against?

- An appropriate benchmark
- But what's appropriate?
  - One that aligns with the investment approach
  - One that aligns with the investment objective

# What do we measure against?

- With ESG
  - An ESG benchmark, that uses the same approach to ESG screening?
  - A non-ESG benchmark, to assess the impact of ESG investments?
- IS ESG investing strategic or tactical?
  - If tactical, shouldn't you use a non-ESG index?
  - If strategic, shouldn't you use one?



# What about risk-adjusted returns?

# What about risk-adjusted returns?

# What about risk-adjusted returns?

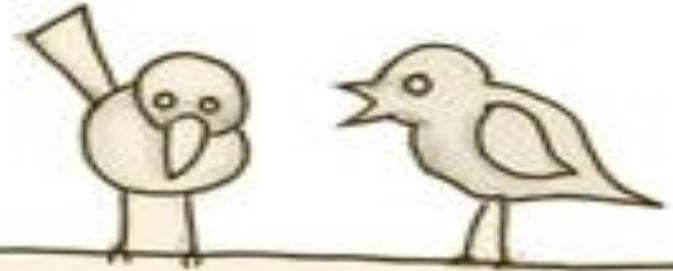
- Sharpe ratio
  - Treynor ratio
  - Sortino ratio
  - Information ratio
- } • Not risk-adjusted returns
- } • Ratios, that show the amount of gain relative to a risk statistic; # units gain / unit of risk
- M-Squared Is a risk-adjusted return
  - Jensen's Alpha Is a risk-adjusted excess return

# What about risk-adjusted attribution?

# It's time to talk! Share!

# CEO FORUM





**David D. Spaulding, DPS, CIPM**  
**DSpaulding@SpauldingGrp.com**  
**www.SpauldingGrp.com**

# We Are Performance™

The institutionally recognized boutique performance measurement consulting and GIPS® standards specialist firm serving the investment industry

[www.SpauldingGrp.com](http://www.SpauldingGrp.com)