Why do physicists gravitate towards jobs in finance?

In the past two decades many physicists have entered the financial sector after graduating from university. Typical career trajectories include jobs in commercial or investment banks, in the asset management and fund industry but also in consultancies, FinTechs and public institutions like supervisory authorities or central banks. In the talk I will discuss possible reasons for this development, starting with similarities or parallels in the concepts, methodologies and tools applied in physics and finance. Moreover, I will elaborate on the particular skills that physicists can bring to the financial sector and why this skill set is a good starting point for an interesting career path in the financial industry. Finally, I will report on the particularities of working in the Single Supervisory Mechanism, the organization for the supervision of banks in the Eurozone, which has been established subsequent to the financial crisis under the roof of the European Central Bank.