

#### ARTEMIS CAPITAL MANAGEMENT LP

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## Volatility and the Allegory of the Prisoner's Dilemma

Volatility & Tail Risk Summit – London, April 16<sup>th</sup> 2015 Christopher Cole, CFA

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"The only thing that will redeem mankind is cooperation"

**Bertrand Russell** 



"Peace is not the absence of conflict"

> Dorothy Thompson



## Volatility and the Allegory of the Prisoner's Dilemma

## **Investors are trapped in a Prisoner's Dilemma**

Global central banking "arms race" to fight deflation has trapped investors in an equilibrium of excessive risk, debt, and false prosperity

## **Volatility** is the **only** real asset class

Most active management strategies are short volatility in sheep's clothing

## <u>Volatility</u> is your only escape from the <u>Prisoner's Dilemma</u> Hedge <u>unknown unknowns</u> and sell <u>known unknowns</u> Global Macro Straddle + Asset Beta



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## Volatility in the Prisoner's Dilemma

#### two purely rational entities may not cooperate, even if it is in their best interests to do so

Global central banks are in an <u>arms race</u> of devaluation resulting in suboptimal outcomes for all parties and greater systemic risk





# Volatility in the Prisoner's Dilemma

#### **Prisoner's Dilemma - Forced to Take Excessive Risk**





Risk Summit 2015

## Volatility and Asset Prices in the Prisoner's Dilemma





## Volatility in the Prisoner's Dilemma

#### Exchanges short term equilibrium for longer term tail risk





Tail Risk Summit 2015





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# Volatility in the Prisoner's Dilemma

## Is global deflation an economic or a demographic phenomenon?





Tail Risk Summit 2015

# Volatility and the Allegory of the Prisoner's Dilemma

# We are all volatility traders

#### Most active management strategies produce alpha by being short volatility or correlation







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# Volatility is the Only Real Asset Class

In the real world... there are two asset classes... long and short volatility





## WHEN DOES PORTFOLIO #1 turn into PORTFOLIO #2?

- <u>Deflationary collapse</u> followed by <u>financial repression</u> and <u>negative real</u> <u>rates</u> and/or;
- 2. <u>Historical correlation</u> (negative correlation) between equities and bonds <u>breaks down</u> rendering traditional diversification useless



Risk Summit 2015

## Volatility is the Only Real Asset Class

#### Changing Correlations Between Fixed Income and Equity Prices





## Volatility is the Only Real Asset Class

## **Cross-Asset Volatility**





What Will be the Outcome of the Economic Prisoner's Dilemma?





## What Will be the Outcome of the Economic Prisoner's Dilemma?



Source: istockphoto.com, worldly

Volatility and the Allegory of the Prisoner's Dilemma

# Volatility is your Only Escape from the Prisoner's Dilemma GLOBAL MACRO STRADDLE + BETA





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## Volatility is an Instrument of Truth

Regardless of how it is measured volatility reflects the difference between the world as we imagine it to be and the world that actually exist





VOLATILITY AND THE ALLEGORY OF THE PRISONER'S DILEMMA

# Tea tray madness is a 'sell' signal if ever there was one

Sir, The next financial apocalypse is imminent. I know this to be true because the House & Home section in FT Weekend is now assuming the epic proportions last seen before the great crash. Twenty-four pages chock full of adverts for mansions and wicker tea trays for a \$1,000. You're all mad. Sell everything and run for your lives. **Matt Long** Seilh, France



& Tail Risk Summit 2015

#### **Artemis Capital Management – Contact Information**

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#### Key Information/ Biography

#### Christopher Cole, CFA

#### Managing Partner & Portfolio Manager / Artemis Capital Management LP

Christopher R. Cole, CFA is the founder of Artemis Capital Management LLC. Mr. Cole's core focus is systematic, quantitative, and behavioral based trading of volatility derivatives. His decision to form a fund came after achieving proprietary returns during the 2008 financial crash trading volatility futures. Mr. Cole's research letters and volatility commentaries were influential in derivatives circles and thereafter widely referenced and quoted by the mainstream financial media, academic, and institutional asset management communities. He previously worked in capital markets and investment banking at Merrill Lynch. During his career in capital markets and pension consulting he structured over \$10 billion in derivatives and debt transactions for many high profile issuers. Mr. Cole holds the Chartered Financial Analyst designation, is an associate member of the NFA, and graduated Magna Cum Laude from the University of Southern California.







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