ZHENG LI

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PERSONAL STATEMENT

I'm a PhD student in Decision, Risk, and Financial Sciences at the University of Melbourne. My research focuses on understanding how human decision and metacognition emerge, evolve, and interact dynamically during deliberation and the process of problem-solving, and how these processes are modulated by computational complexity of the environment.

EDUCATION

University of Melbourne 2023/07 – present
Doctor of Philosophy in Decision, Risk, and Financial Sciences Melbourne, AU

London School of Economics and Political Science 2019/09 – 2020/06
Master of Science in Economics London, UK

Pennsylvania State University 2014/08 – 2019/05
Bachelor of Science in Finance (Magna Cum Laude) State College, USA
Bachelor of Science in Economics (Magna Cum Laude)
Bachelor of Science in Mathematics (Cum Laude)

RESEARCH

The co-evolution of decision and confidence processes at different levels of computational complexity
Zheng Li, Juan Pablo Franco, Carsten Murawski, Nitin Yadav
WIP

The Impact of Trader Incentives on Stability in Option Markets: A Controlled Market Experiment
Zheng Li, Hoang Long Nguyen, Robert Woods, Nitin Yadav, Peter Bossaerts
WIP

The effects of computational complexity on AI-augmented human problem solving
Juan Pablo Franco, Gergely Nyilasy, Zheng Li
WIP

EXPERIENCE

Deloitte 2021/07 – 2023/06
Senior Consultant, Quantitative Financial Modelling

Harvard University 2020/07 – 2021/06
Pre-doc Research Assistant
- "Noisy Cognition and Intertemporal Choice", *working paper*, Benjamin Enke and Thomas Graeber
- "Confidence, Self-Selection and Bias in the Aggregate", *American Economic Review*, Benjamin Enke, Thomas Graeber, and Ryan Oprea

TEACHING

University of Melbourne 2024/07 – present
FNCE30015 Behavioural Finance
FNCE90086 Behavioural Finance
FNCE10002 Principles of Finance
FNCE30012 Foundations of FinTech
FNCE90084 Fintech: Foundations and Applications
ECON10005 Quantitative Methods 1
ECON30024 Economics of Financial Markets

CONFERENCES & SEMINARS

"The co-evolution of decision and confidence processes at different levels of computational complexity", 2026/04, Workshop on Dynamic Decision Making: Minds, Models, and Markets, Sydney, Australia

“The Impact of Trader Incentives on Stability in Option Markets: A Controlled Market Experiment”, 2026/04, Experimental Finance Asia-Pacific, Melbourne, Australia

“The co-evolution of decision and confidence processes at different levels of computational complexity”, 2026/02, Australasian Mathematical Psychology Conference, Singapore

AWARDS & SCHOLARSHIPS

Society for Experimental Finance
Vernon L. Smith Young Talent Award ($4,000 USD) 2026

University of Melbourne, Faculty of Business and Economics
Doctoral Program Scholarship ($39,500 AUD p.a.) 2023/07
Melbourne Global Scholars Award for High Achieving students ($1,000 AUD) 2025/01

Pennsylvania State University
Undergraduate Award, Department of Economics ($1,000 USD) 2018/12
President’s Sparks Award 2016/05
President’s Freshmen Award 2015/05
Dean’s List 2014 – 2019

SKILLS & QUALIFICATIONS

- Python, R, Stata, LaTeX, SQL, CSS, JavaScript
- Certification of Securities Professional issued by Securities Association of China
- CFA exam Level 1 (passed)