YAXIN LIU

Updated on 20th September 2026

Contact Information

UNSW Sydney, NSW 2052, Australia
yaxin.liu@unsw.edu.au
Personal Website

Education

University of New South Wales, Australia
PhD candidate in Economics — Jan 2024 - Sept 2027
Fields: Applied Microeconomics, Behavioral and Experimental Economics, Gender Economics

Advisors: Prof. Pauline Grosjean, Prof. Y. Jane Zhang, Dr. Federico Masera

University of Zurich, Switzerland
Visting PhD student (Hosted by Prof. Björn Bartling) — Sept - Dec 2026

University of New South Wales, Australia
Master of Pre-Doctoral Business Studies (MPDBS) — Jan 2023 - Jan 2024

The University of Sydney, Australia
Master of Economics — June 2019

Grants and Scholarships

UNSW University International Postgraduate Award (UIPA)
UNSW Tuition Fee Scholarship

Work in Progress

[1] A game of status: gender asymmetry in loss aversion

Best PhD paper award at 2026 Australian Gender Economics Workshop (AGEW)

Do men and women fight equally hard to hold their place in a hierarchy? I study gender differences in loss aversion over status using Grand Slam matches in professional tennis. Under the sport's rolling ranking system, ranking points expire after 52 weeks, so players must keep re-earning them to hold their ranking. Defending one's current ranking therefore provides a natural reference point, which I use to measure prospective status gains and losses. Using a regression discontinuity design, I estimate the causal effect of a potential status loss on match behavior and performance. The results reveal a clear gender difference. Men with status on the line play more aggressively and win more often than comparable men whose ranking is already secure, and the effect is stronger at salient ranking thresholds. Women show no comparable response around the reference point. Additional evidence suggests that men's loss aversion over status is stronger among players from countries with stronger masculinity norms.

Teaching Experience

University of New South Wales

Undergraduate

ECON3210 Big Data Econometrics (*2024 T2*)
ECON3124 Behavioral Economics (*2025 T2*)
ECON1401 Economic Perspectives (*2025 T3, 2026 T1*)
ECON2206 Introductory Econometrics (*2026 T1*)

Postgraduate

ECON5324 Behavioral Economics (*2025 T3, 2026 T2*)

Seminars and Conferences

2026 Asia Meeting of the Econometric Society (Abu Dhabi, UAE)
Australian Gender Economics Workshop (Melbourne, Australia)
Economic Science Association Asia Meeting (Melbourne, Australia)
Zurich AI & Applied Economics Summer School (Zurich, Switzerland)

2025 Summer School & Workshop on Experimetrics and Behavioural Economics (Soleto, Italy)
ANZWEE (Sydney, Australia)
ABEF Annual Conference (Tokyo, Japan)
Kochi University of Technology Seminar (Kochi, Japan)
Tokai University Seminar (Tokai, Japan)
Waseda University Seminar (Tokyo, Japan)

2024 Sydney Behavioral Economics Seminars (Sydney, Australia)
1st European Economic Review Summer School in Experimental and Behaviour Economics (Crete, Greece)

*Scheduled **

Skills

Programming	Latex (Proficient)
	R (Proficient)
	STATA (Proficient)
	Python (Basic)
Language	English (Proficient)
	Chinese (Native)