NSW FINANCE DOCTORAL NETWORK

Inaugural NSW Finance Doctoral Conference 2026

Wednesday 18 November 2026

Macquarie University City Campus
Level 24, 123 Pitt Street, Sydney

Register at events.humanitix.com/nsw-finance-doctoral-conference-2026

ORGANISERS

UNSW SYDNEY · THE UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY · UTS UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY SYDNEY · MACQUARIE University SYDNEY·AUSTRALIA · UNIVERSITY OF WOLLONGONG AUSTRALIA

FUNDERS

MACQUARIE University BUSINESS SCHOOL SYDNEY·AUSTRALIA · TIP Group · FIRN Australia's Global Finance Research Network

About the NSW Finance Doctoral Network

The NSW Finance Doctoral Network is a collaboration among the finance departments of five NSW universities: the University of Sydney, the University of New South Wales, the University of Technology Sydney, Macquarie University, and the University of Wollongong. It grew out of conversations among the universities' PhD coordinators, who saw the value in bringing their doctoral communities together. The Network gives finance PhD students across the State a shared platform to present their research, receive feedback, build networks with their peers, and connect with potential employers. It is intended as a lasting, annual initiative, with the host rotating among the partner universities.

About the conference

The inaugural NSW Finance Doctoral Conference brings the Network to life for the first time. Over a single day, doctoral students present their research to senior faculty and peers, with experienced academics acting as discussants and mentors. The program features a keynote address, a career pathways panel with speakers from academia, industry, and government, and a session in which recent hires share their experience of the job market. Time is set aside for mentoring and networking throughout the day. The conference is designed above all to support students approaching the job market, and it is free to attend, hosted by Macquarie Business School and the Nature Positive Finance and Business Research Centre.

Best paper awards

This year the conference is funded by Macquarie Business School, TIP Group, and FIRN. There will be one best paper and one runner-up award funded by TIP Group, and one FIRN best presentation award.

Organising Committee

The conference is organised jointly by PhD coordinators and discipline leaders of the five partner universities.

Founding Convenor

Associate Professor Clara Zhou
Director of Research and Training, Department of Applied Finance, Macquarie University

Steering Committee

Dr Kristoffer Glover
Finance PhD Coordinator, University of Technology Sydney

Professor Xiaofei Pan
Finance Discipline Leader, University of Wollongong

Professor Peter Pham
Associate Head, Research Education, Finance Discipline, University of Sydney

Associate Professor Jianfeng Shen
PhD Coordinator, University of New South Wales

Professor Abhay Singh
Head of Department, Department of Applied Finance, Macquarie University

Organising Committee

Dr Mingze Gao
Macquarie University

Dr Guanglian Hu
University of Sydney

Associate Professor Christina Nikitopoulos Sklibosios
University of Technology Sydney

Associate Professor Terry Pan
Macquarie University

Associate Professor Ben Wang
Macquarie University

Advisory and Mentoring Board

Senior academics from across the partner universities who support the students through mentoring and guidance.

Professor Millicent Chang University of Wollongong
Professor Sean Foley Macquarie University
Professor Andrew Lepone Macquarie University
Professor Vito Mollica Macquarie University
Professor Xiaofei Pan University of Wollongong
Professor Peter Pham University of Sydney
Professor Buhui Qiu University of Sydney
Associate Professor Jianfeng Shen University of New South Wales
Professor Tom Smith Macquarie University
Associate Professor Elvira Sojli University of New South Wales
Professor Gary Tian Macquarie University
Professor Kathy Walsh University of Technology Sydney
Associate Professor Jing Yu University of Sydney

Keynote and speakers

Keynote

Professor Buhui Qiu University of Sydney

"Building a Research Career in Finance: Ideas, Resilience, and Impact"

Buhui Qiu is Professor of Business and Finance and Head of the School of Finance at the University of Sydney Business School. He holds a PhD in Finance from the University of Cincinnati, and his research spans corporate finance, ESG and climate finance, banking, capital markets, and innovation. His work has appeared in leading journals including the Review of Financial Studies, The Accounting Review, and Management Science, has been cited by policy institutions such as the US Federal Reserve, and has featured in outlets including Bloomberg and The Economist. He has held a number of leadership roles in doctoral education and research at the University of Sydney.

Career pathways panel

Dr Ashley Ding Senior Analyst, System Design, Australian Energy Market Operator

Ashley Ding is a Senior Analyst at the Australian Energy Market Operator (AEMO). She previously worked in energy modelling at the Australian Government Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water, covering electricity and gas markets, emissions projections, and electric vehicle infrastructure. She holds a PhD in Finance from the University of Queensland.

Dr Philip Drummond Senior Associate, The Brattle Group

Philip Drummond is a financial economist and Senior Associate at The Brattle Group, where he prepares expert analyses for shareholder class actions, covering causation and loss, market efficiency, valuation, and price inflation. He holds a PhD in Finance from the Australian National University and was previously a Lecturer at Monash University.

Dr Shane McMiken Lead analyst in the Research and Modelling Hub, the Reserve Bank of Australia

Shane McMiken is a lead analyst in the Research and Modelling Hub at the Reserve Bank of Australia, which he joined in 2026. He holds a PhD from Boston College, his research interests are in macroeconomics, with a focus on macro-finance, household-finance and inequality. Before his PhD, he did his undergraduate studies at the Australian National University and held positions at Macquarie Group and Dimensional Fund Advisors.

Dr Hamid Yahyaei Director, Fixed Income and Interest Rate Strategy, Commonwealth Bank of Australia

Hamid Yahyaei is Director, Fixed Income and Interest Rate Strategy at the Commonwealth Bank of Australia, leading quantitative research on interest rate markets. He has previously held roles at NGS Super, Macquarie Group, Tribeca Investment Partners, and the Reserve Bank of Australia, and is a finance PhD graduate of Macquarie University.

Experience-sharing session

Dr Lyungmae Choi Senior Lecturer, Macquarie University

Lyungmae Choi is a Senior Lecturer in the Department of Applied Finance at Macquarie University, which she joined in 2026. She holds a PhD from Arizona State University, and her research focuses on social networks, insider trading, and mergers and acquisitions, including the use of machine learning to process information in capital markets. She was previously an Assistant Professor at City University of Hong Kong.

Dr Emanuela Benincasa Lecturer, University of Sydney

Emanuela Benincasa is a Lecturer in Finance at the University of Sydney, which she joined in 2025. She holds a PhD from the University of Zurich and the Swiss Finance Institute, and her research focuses on banking and corporate finance, with an emphasis on environmental, social, and climate finance.

Dr Janghoon Shon Lecturer, University of New South Wales

Janghoon Shon is a Lecturer in the School of Banking and Finance at UNSW, which he joined in 2023. His research spans household finance, labour and finance, financial analysts, and innovation, with work published in the Journal of Financial Economics and the Journal of Corporate Finance.

Dr Shiyi Zhang Lecturer, University of Technology Sydney

Shiyi Zhang is a Lecturer in Finance at the University of Technology Sydney, which she joined in 2024. She holds a PhD in Finance from the University of Miami, and her research focuses on behavioural finance, labour economics, and diversity.

Host: Macquarie Business School and the Nature Positive Finance and Business Research Centre

Enquiries: Terry Pan, terry.pan@mq.edu.au Clara Zhou, clara.zhou@mq.edu.au

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Inaugural NSW Finance Doctoral Conference 2026

Program

Date Wednesday 18 November 2026

Venue Macquarie University City Campus, Level 24, 123 Pitt Street, Sydney

The time shown against each presenter is their start time; each slot allows a short changeover before the next speaker.

08:00 – 08:30 Registration and coffee

08:30 – 08:50 Welcome and launch of the NSW Finance Doctoral Network

Professor Vito Mollica Deputy Dean of Research, Macquarie Business School

Professor Abhay Singh Department of Applied Finance, Macquarie Business School

08:50 – 09:30 Keynote address

Professor Buhui Qiu (University of Sydney)

Building a Research Career in Finance: Ideas, Resilience, and Impact

09:30 – 10:45 Job market presentations, session 1

Chair: Professor Andrew Lepone (Macquarie University)

09:30 **Sheng Xu** (University of New South Wales)
Innovation Policies and Inventors' Productivity: Evidence from Global AI Initiatives
Discussant: Peter Pham (University of Sydney)

09:55 **Connor Arthur** (University of Technology Sydney)
Less Netting, Lower Risk: Real-Time Settlement of Prefunded Equity Trades
Discussant: Amy Kwan (University of New South Wales)

10:20 **Xiaona Ji** (Macquarie University)
Institutional Common Ownership in Complementor Networks and Investment Efficiency
Discussant: Stephen Wu (University of Wollongong)

10:45 – 11:00 Tea break

11:00 – 11:50 Job market presentations, session 2

Chair: Professor Xiaofei Pan (University of Wollongong)

11:00 **Ximu Zeng** (University of Sydney)
Which is king: cash or cash burn? Investment-liquidity trade-off in VC-backed startups
Discussant: Duc Giang Nguyen (Macquarie University)

11:25 **Swadip Bhattacharjee** (University of Wollongong)
Political spending disclosure and corporate payouts
Discussant: Jing Xu (University of Technology Sydney)

11:50 – 13:05 Lunch and faculty mentor matching

Facilitator: Dr Kristoffer Glover

13:05 – 14:45 Research lightning session (early and mid-candidature)

Chair: Professor Gary Tian (Macquarie University)

13:05 **Yiru Wang** (University of New South Wales)
Costly Voluntary Disclosure: Insider Trade Before Bad News

13:17 **Yinglin Gu** (University of Sydney)

Geopolitical Shocks and Supply Chain Resilience: Evidence from the Russo-Ukrainian War

13:29 **Lu Tang** (University of Sydney)
Immigration Reforms and Firm Labor Outcomes

13:41 **Tim Berger** (Macquarie University)
The Customer Centricity Index (CCI): A Customer-Based Measurement Perspective on Customer Centricity

13:53 **Liyun Chen** (University of New South Wales)
Attention Put: A Tale of Government Intervention

14:05 **Jianxing Ma** (University of Technology Sydney)
A High-Frequency GDELT-Based Sino–U.S. Political Relations Index

14:17 **Luping Shen** (University of Technology Sydney)
The Information Content of R&D Disclosure: Signal versus Washing

14:29 **Sasa Qian** (University of Wollongong)
The Information Content of Corporate YouTube Videos and Firm Idiosyncratic Risk

14:45 – 15:00 Tea break

15:00 – 16:00 Career pathways: academic, industry, and government perspectives

Moderator: Professor Abhay Singh (Macquarie University)

Dr Philip Drummond Senior Associate, The Brattle Group

Dr Ashley Ding Senior Analyst, System Design, Australian Energy Market Operator

Dr Shane McMiken RBA

Dr Hamid Yahyaei Director, Fixed Income and Interest Rate Strategy, Commonwealth Bank of Australia

16:00 – 16:45 Experience-sharing session: ECRs and recent hires

Moderator: Professor Millicent Chang (University of Wollongong)

Dr Lyungmae Choi Senior Lecturer, Macquarie University (joined 2026)

Dr Emanuela Benincasa Lecturer, University of Sydney (joined 2025)

Dr Janghoon Shon Lecturer, University of New South Wales (joined 2023)

Dr Shiyi Zhang Lecturer, University of Technology Sydney (joined 2024)

16:45 – 17:00 Closing remarks and presentation of awards

17:00 – 18:30 Networking reception

Presenters, discussants, and chairs

Presenters

Connor Arthur University of Technology Sydney
Tim Berger Macquarie University
Swadip Bhattacharjee University of Wollongong
Liyun Chen University of New South Wales
Yinglin Gu University of Sydney
Xiaona Ji Macquarie University
Jianxing Ma University of Technology Sydney
Sasa Qian University of Wollongong
Luping Shen University of Technology Sydney
Lu Tang University of Sydney
Yiru Wang University of New South Wales
Sheng Xu University of New South Wales
Ximu Zeng University of Sydney

Discussants

Amy Kwan University of New South Wales
Duc Giang Nguyen Macquarie University
Peter Pham University of Sydney
Stephen Wu University of Wollongong
Jing Xu University of Technology Sydney

Chairs and moderators

Professor Millicent Chang University of Wollongong · Moderator, experience-sharing session
Dr Kristoffer Glover University of Technology Sydney · Facilitator, mentoring lunch
Professor Andrew Lepone Macquarie University · Chair, job market session 1
Dr Kenny Phua University of Technology Sydney · Facilitator, mentoring lunch
Professor Xiaofei Pan University of Wollongong · Chair, job market session 2
Professor Abhay Singh Macquarie University · Moderator, career pathways panel
Professor Gary Tian Macquarie University · Chair, lightning session