

YANG YI

Email: yyi8@simon.rochester.edu ◊ Phone: +1 (585)-483-4052

Website: <https://sites.google.com/view/yang-yi/home>

Simon Business School, University of Rochester, Rochester, NY 14627

EDUCATION

Simon Business School, University of Rochester

Ph.D. Candidate in Finance 2023 – 2025 (Expected)
M.S. in Business Research 2020 – 2023

School of Finance, Renmin University of China

M.A. Student in Finance 2018 – 2020
B.A. in Finance, B.S. in Mathematics 2014 – 2018

University of California, Davis

Exchange Graduate Student 2019

Copenhagen Business School

Exchange Student 2017

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Household Finance, Corporate Finance, Banking, Politics, Fintech, ESG

WORKING PAPERS

Does Partisanship Affect Household Real Consumption? (Job Market Paper)

Abstract: This paper examines the impact of partisanship on household consumption levels and patterns. Utilizing detailed household purchase data, I find that households politically aligned with the U.S. president exhibit higher spending levels compared to demographically similar, misaligned counterparts. Aligned households also upgrade their consumption baskets, favoring branded products and reducing reliance on bargains. This effect cannot be explained by changes in household economic situations or supply-side factors. The partisan consumption effect is more pronounced among less educated and politically isolated households, and it is further amplified by heightened political polarization and influenced by partisan media. Moreover, political alignment is associated with a relative decline in savings, suggesting that aligned households, likely driven by increased optimism, tend to decrease precautionary savings in favor of immediate consumption. Overall, these findings highlight how partisan beliefs can distort economic outcomes in the context of household consumption.

Optimal AI Adoption in Investment Monitoring, with Xuyuanda Qi

Abstract: This paper develops a theoretical framework to analyze the strategic adoption of AI innovations in investment monitoring by financial institutions. In addition to the conventional cost tradeoff, financiers can potentially face a nuanced tradeoff between leveraging informational advantages and enforcing “hard” budget constraints when considering AI adoption. As AI-driven information accuracy improves, financiers gain better insights into borrower quality during refinancing. However, this may introduce a soft-budget-constraint problem, compelling financiers to refinance initially speculative borrowers, thus exacerbating adverse selection in initial lending. Consequently, financiers may strategically opt to refrain from AI adoption to mitigate such risks. Our model predicts a hump-shaped relationship between a financier’s AI adoption and the quality of its lending pool. Moreover, we establish that reductions in AI adoption costs stimulate adoption only in environments with high average project quality. These findings offer novel insights into comprehending the strategic dynamics of AI adoption in investment monitoring.

PUBLICATION

Holding Cash for Corruption? Evidence from China's Anti-corruption Campaign, with Yulin Chen, Changyun Wang, and Jianyu Zeng, *Accounting & Finance*

Abstract: Leveraging China's 2012 anti-corruption campaign as a quasi-natural experiment, we find that firms with higher pre-campaign bribery spending reduce their cash holdings more than firms with lower spending. Additionally, these ex-ante more corrupt firms experience a greater decrease in the value of their cash holdings, suggesting that cash was more valuable to them before the campaign. The baseline pattern is more pronounced among financially constrained firms, those with better governance, and private enterprises. However, we do not observe significant changes in financing conditions or investment decisions following the campaign. Overall, our findings suggest that firms reduce their cash holdings in anticipation of a decrease in corrupt opportunities in the post-campaign era.

WORK IN PROGRESS

Partisan Mortgage Borrowing, with Zijie Liu

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

2024 Annual Meeting of Behavioral Finance & Economics
FMA Doctoral Student Consortium and Special PhD Paper Presentation

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Simon Business School, University of Rochester

Instructor

MSM502 Linear Algebra (PhD Math Camp) 2022, 2023 (Rating: 5, 4.7/5)

Lab Instructor

FIN462 Foundation of Financial Economics (MS, MBA) 2023 (Rating: 4.4, 4.6/5)

Teaching Assistant

FIN430 Risk Management (Instructor: Ramona Dagostino) 2022 – 2024

FIN413 Corporate Finance (Instructor: Michael Gofman, Derek Mohr) 2021 – 2022

FIN402 Capital Budgeting and Corporate Objectives (Instructor: Ron Kaniel) 2021

School of Finance, Renmin University of China

Teaching Assistant

Advanced Financial Economics (Instructor: Shunming Zhang) 2019

OTHER RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Simon Business School, University of Rochester 2022 – 2024

Research Assistant for Prof. Ramona Dagostino, Prof. Ron Kaniel

School of Finance, Renmin University of China 2016 – 2020

Research Assistant for Prof. Changyun Wang, Prof. Mo Liang

SELECTED HONORS & AWARDS

PhD Fellowship, Simon Business School, University of Rochester 2020 – Present

Presidential Scholarship, Renmin University 2017, 2020

Merit Award Scholarship, Renmin University 2015 – 2019

Outstanding Undergraduate Research, Renmin University 2016

SKILLS

Languages: English (fluent), Chinese (native)

Coding: Stata, Python, R, MatLab

REFERENCES

Ron Kaniel

Jay S. and Jeanne P. Benet Professor of Finance
Simon School of Business
University of Rochester
Rochester, NY 14627
Phone: +1 (585)-275-1836
Email: ron.kaniel@simon.rochester.edu

Billy Xu

Assistant Professor of Finance
Simon School of Business
University of Rochester
Rochester, NY 14627
Phone: +1 (281)-236-2867
Email: billy.y.xu@rochester.edu

Alan Moreira

Associate Professor of Finance
Simon School of Business
University of Rochester
Rochester, NY 14627
Phone: +1 (585)-273-3253
Email: alan.moreira@simon.rochester.edu

Ramona Dagostino

Assistant Professor of Business Administration
Darden School of Business
University of Virginia
Charlottesville, VA 22903
Phone: +1 (585)-490-8951
Email: DagostinoR@darden.virginia.edu