

Nature versus Nurture: The Influence of Personal  
Attributes and Traits in Determining an Individual's  
Risk Taking in Trading

by

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## **ABSTRACT**

My thesis examines the saliency and power that the personal attributes an individual is born with (nature variables) and life experiences (nurture variables) have on an individual's risk taking in trading. My research is motivated by studies in the psychology, economics and finance literature that posit these variables have an impact on an individual's risk taking, albeit not specifically related to trading. My results show that both nature and nurture variables are significant predictors of risk taking in trading and imply it is possible to profile an individual's risk taking propensity in trading by capturing these factors.

## **DECLARATION**

I certify that this work contains no material which has been accepted for the award of any other degree or diploma in my name in any university or other tertiary institution and, to the best of my knowledge and belief, contains no material previously published or written by another person, except where due reference has been made in the text. In addition, I certify that no part of this work will, in the future, be used in a submission in my name for any other degree or diploma in any university or other tertiary institution without the prior approval of the University of Adelaide and where applicable, any partner institution responsible for the joint award of this degree.

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