



Upcoming Seminars

Monday, 20.11.2023

Departmental Seminar

13.30-14.30

AWI room 00.010

Aniol Llorente-Saguer, Queen Mary University of London

"Weighted Voting: Rule Complexity and Information Aggregation"

(Host: Christoph Vanberg)

Wednesday, 22.11.2023

Internal Seminar

12.15-13.15

AWI room 00.010

Madeline Werthschulte

"Nudging the Poor: Field Experimental Evidence on Increasing Energy Efficiency Investments among Low-Income Households"

Abstracts

Departmental Seminar

Aniol Llorente-Saguer

"Weighted Voting: Rule Complexity and Information Aggregation"

We study voting in contexts where committee members have different quality of information. In such an environment, more complex rules allow voters to better aggregate information by endogenously allocating more decision power to members with better information. We consider two polar examples of voting rules in terms of complexity: majority voting (MV) and continuous voting (CV). We compare the mechanisms using laboratory experiments, and we also study participants' preferences over these. We find that: (i) CV does better than majority voting on average, but the difference is lower than theoretically predicted, and (ii) CV enjoys higher support than MV, in all treatments in which it is expected to perform better. We also find a systematic and significant departure from the theoretical predictions under CV: voters with intermediate information quality assign excessive weight to their votes.

Internal Seminar

Madeline Werthschulte

"Nudging the Poor: Field Experimental Evidence on Increasing Energy Efficiency Investments among Low-Income Households"*

Managing the burden of high energy prices on low-income households is a major concern among policy-makers. However, publicly funded assistance programs to increase energy efficiency levels often suffer from low take-up rates. While nudges may be a suitable tool to achieve higher take-up at little cost, there exists little systematic evidence on their effectiveness when applied at the intersection of poverty and energy efficiency. This paper utilizes a natural field experiment conducted with the largest energy efficiency assistance program in Germany to study whether and to what extent low-cost nudges are able to increase take-up of an energy efficiency subsidy for low-income households. Our results show that in such a setting, gain framing is highly successful and significantly outperforms loss framing. Enhancements of the gain framing designed to address multiple barriers do not significantly improve subsidy take-up. These results highlight the importance of better understanding the decision-making of low-income households, and the resulting implications for program design.

*with Bettina Chlond, Timo Goeschl and Martin Kesternich

Talks and Research Visits

Anca Balietti presented the paper "Strategic Ignorance and Perceived Control" at the Swiss workshop on Environmental, Resource and Energy Economics (SERE), joint work with Angelika Budjan, Tillmann Eymess, and Alice Solda, at ETH Zurich, November 10.

New Publications

T. Dimitriadis, T. Gneiting, A.I. Jordan and P. Vogel., Evaluating probabilistic classifiers: The triptych. *International Journal of Forecasting* (2023). (find [here](#)).

Editorial deadline for issue 28/2023 of the newsletter:
Wednesday, November 22, 2023, 12 p.m.
newsletter@awi.uni-heidelberg.de