



## Upcoming Seminar

**Monday, 21.10.2024**

13.30-14.30

AWI room 00.010

**Departmental Seminar**

Joël van der Weele, Amsterdam

"Altruism as a self-control problem"

(Host: Katharina Momsen)

## Abstract

### Departmental Seminar

Joël van der Weele

"Altruism as a self-control problem"\*

Social preferences fluctuate with situational emotions like anger and compassion. This creates a potential self-control problem, where a self in 'cold' state may seek commitment to influence the altruistic actions of a self in the 'emotional' state. We experimentally investigate such self-control problems by studying avoidance behavior as a commit device. In our experiment, subjects face a charitable giving task and have to choose beforehand whether to watch one of several videos, which differ in their emotional content. We study the choice of video as a commitment device to affect giving, and develop a novel method to measure sophistication behind commitment choices. We find evidence that the selection of emotional content is partially driven by sophisticated emotional self-regulation.

(\* joint work with Cristina Figueroa, Jantsje Mol, and Ivan Soraperra).

## Talks and Research visits

**Theodore Alysandratos** presented the paper "The behavioural foundations of international anti-bribery laws: Results from an international lab-type experiment" at *Durham University Economics Department* and *Durham University Law School*, on October 14.

**Anca Balietti** presented the paper "Strategic Ignorance and Perceived Control", (joint work with Angelika Budjan, Tillmann Eymess, and Alice Soldà) at the 9th *Workshop on Experimental Economics for the Environment* in Bochum, 10-11 September 2024, and at the *Workshop in Behavioral Experiments in Health* in Hamburg, from October 7-8.

**Christoph Becker** gave a talk titled "Personalizing Probabilistic Survey Scales" at the *University of Alabama* on September 20. The talk summarized three papers (joint work with Peter Duersch, Thomas Eife and Alexander Glas) focusing on inflation belief elicitation using probabilistic questions.

**Jürgen Eichberger** attended the *FUR 2024* (Foundations of Utility and Risk) Conference, held from July 3 – 6 at the *University of Queensland* in Brisbane, and gave a talk on "Data, Cases and States". He also presented this paper in an invited seminar at the *Australian National University* (ANU) in Canberra, Australia on August 8<sup>th</sup>.

**Sara Engeler** presented the paper "Pursuits for Status: Gender Differences in Tournament Choices in the Presence of Social-Status Ranking", joint work with Christiane Schwieren, at the ESA meeting in Helsinki on September 6<sup>th</sup>.

**Leon Houf** presented the paper "Between Anthropology and Behavioral Economics: Interdisciplinary Research in a Resettlement Community in Laos" at the *Advances with Field Experiments Conference* at LSE, 5-6 September and he attended the *EADM Summer School* on "LLMs in Behavioral Science" at the *MPI for Human Development* in Berlin from September 9 -13.

**Ferdinand Rauch** attended the Jahrestagung of "Verein für Socialpolitik" – Ausschuss für Regionaltheorie und -politik, Cologne, from October 10 – 11.

**Christiane Schwieren** presented her paper "Do women overprepare?" (joint work with Cosima Steck, Heidelberg, and Humberto Llavador, Universitat Pompeu Fabra) at *Exeter Business school* on October 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Stefan Trautmann** presented the paper "Fairness properties of compensation schemes" (joint with C. Becker, D. Fehr, H. Rau, and Y. Xu) at the *Southern University of Science and Technology* (SUSTech) *Business School*, Shenzhen, China in an online seminar, on October 9<sup>th</sup>.

## New Publications

Becker, C. K., T. Melkonyan, E. Proto, A. Sofianos, and S.T. Trautmann (2024): "Reverse Bayesianism: "Revising Beliefs in Light of Unforeseen Events". Journal of the European Economic Association, forthcoming [Article Revising beliefs in light of unforeseen events](#) .

Matthes, Julian; Piazzolo, David (2024): "Don't put all your legs in one basket: Theory and evidence on coepetition in road cycling". European Economic Review, forthcoming [Paper Don't put all your legs in one basket](#) .

Rauch, Ferdinand; Klein, Marius: "When market access gains do not spur urban growth". Journal of Economic Geography, Ibae 032, September 2024, <https://doi.org/10.1093/jeg/lbae032> .

## New and leaving Staff

Asyegul Sahin is a visiting scholar at AWI under the supervision of Prof. Dr. Stefan Trautmann until September 2025. She received her PhD at Dokuz Eylul University, where she's currently an assistant professor. She has taught courses on Corporate Finance, Financial Management, and Investment Project Analysis. Her research is supported by The Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey. Aysegul sits in 1.015.

[Clément Staner](#) (room 01.001) has joined the Chair of Economic Theory I as a postdoctoral researcher under the supervision of Sebastian Ebert, following the completion of his PhD at the Université Libre de Bruxelles. Prior to this, he earned a Master's in Behavioral Economics from Erasmus University, Rotterdam. His research primarily focuses on microeconomic theory, with an emphasis on revealed preference analysis, behavioral economics, and economic psychology.



Editorial deadline for issue 23/2024 of the newsletter:  
Wednesday, 23rd, 2024, 12 p.m.  
[newsletter@awi.uni-heidelberg.de](mailto:newsletter@awi.uni-heidelberg.de)