



Upcoming Seminars

Monday, 26.4.2021

Departmental Seminar

13.30-14.30
Virtual seminar room

Dorothea Kübler, WZB
(invited by Jörg Oechssler)
"Repugnant transactions: On the role of limited agency
and extreme consequences"

Wednesday, 28.4.2021

Internal Seminar

12.15-13.15
Virtual seminar room

Marco Lambrecht
"More skill, less bias? Breaking down break-even effects
in poker"

Abstracts

Departmental Seminar

Dorothea Kübler

"Repugnant transactions: On the role of limited agency and extreme consequences"*

People can have a preference to restrict transactions that other people want to engage in, e.g., the sale of human organs and prostitution. It is not well understood what causes such judgments of repugnance. We study two potential reasons: lack of agency of the parties and extreme consequences. Using a lab experiment, we ask spectators whether they want to prohibit the transaction or not. We find that transactions with extreme outcomes (listening to a painful tone) are more frequently prohibited than those with mild outcomes (waiting in the lab) and more often when agency is limited than with full agency.

*with Hande Erkut

Internal Seminar

Marco Lambrecht

"More skill, less bias? Breaking down break-even effects in poker"

Chasing and the house money effect are prevalent phenomena in contexts of decision making under risk such as investment decisions or casino gambling. Yet, the nature of these biases in professional environments is mostly unexplored. This study examines field evidence from online poker and identifies biased individuals. Subsequently, respective groups are compared systematically, thus relating biases to other observable dimensions. It turns out that individuals exhibiting the house money effect earn less, play less frequently and are of lower relative skill than unbiased individuals. Chasers, on the other hand, earn more, play more frequently and are of higher relative skill than the unbiased group. Meanwhile, high stakes players are less prone to chase. Finally, performance is lower while chasing, supporting the interpretation of chasing as a bias.

Virtual Talks

Andis Sofianos presented the paper "Reverse Bayesianism: Revising Beliefs in Light of Unforeseen Events" (with Christoph K. Becker, Tigran Melkonyan, Eugenio Proto and Stefan T. Trautmann), at the Royal Economic Society 2021 Annual Conference on April 14.

Editorial deadline for issue 08/2021 of the newsletter:
Wednesday, April 28, 2021, 12 p.m.
newsletter@awi.uni-heidelberg.de