

Masterseminar Ethics and Economics

Topic list Sommersemester 2022

Course code: 379046

1. Ethical consumerisms and firm behavior: can people affect production? Discuss in the context of the recent empirical research.

Hainmueller, J., Hiscox, M. J. & Sequeira, S. (2015). Consumer demand for fair trade: Evidence from a multistore field experiment. *Review of Economics and Statistics*, 97(2), 242-256.

Buell, R. W. & Kalkanci, B. (2021). How transparency into internal and external responsibility initiatives influences consumer choice. *Management Science*, 67(2), 932-950.

Distelhorst, G. & Locke, R. M. (2018). Does compliance pay? Social standards and firm-level trade. *American Journal of Political Science*, 62(3), 695-711.

2. Can the supply of transplanatable organs be increased by means of presumed consent legislation? Discuss in the context of economics and ethics research.

Abadie, A. & Gay, S. (2006). The impact of presumed consent legislation on cadaveric organ donation: a cross-country study. *Journal of Health Economics*, 25(4), 599-620.

Kennedy, I., Sells, R. A., Daar, A. S., Guttmann, R. D., Hoffenberg, R., Lock, M., ... & Tilney, N. (1998). The case for "presumed consent" in organ donation. *The Lancet*, 351(9116), 1650-1652.

3. Randomizing religion: have development economists gone too far? Discuss ethical questions of field experiments in the context of development economics.

Bryan, G., Choi, J. J. & Karlan, D. (2021). Randomizing Religion: the Impact of Protestant Evangelism on Economic Outcomes. *The Quarterly Journal of Economics*, 136(1), 293-380.

Glennerster, R. (2017). The Practicalities of Running Randomized Evaluations: Partnerships, Measurement, Ethics, and Transparency. In E. Duflo & A. Banerjee (Eds.), *Handbook of Field Experiments* (1st ed., pp. 175-243). North Holland.

Evans, D. (2021). *Towards Improved and More Transparent Ethics in Randomised Controlled Trials in Development Social Science*. CEAGA Working Paper 565.

4. The do-not-harm principle of German development cooperation. Time for a new strategy? Discuss this question in context of empirical economics research.

De Ree, J. & Nillesen, E. (2009). Aiding violence or peace? The impact of foreign aid on the risk of civil conflict in sub-Saharan Africa. *Journal of Development Economics*, 88(2), 301-313.

Kremer, M. (2020). Experimentation, innovation, and economics. *American Economic Review*, 110(7), 1974-94.

Moscona, J. (2020). *The Management of Aid and Conflict in Africa*. MIT Working Paper. <http://economics.mit.edu/files/15130>

5. **Payoff maximizing individuals should lie whenever it is to his benefit. Many people do not behave this way. Discuss recent behavioral economic theories of why individuals refrain from lying.**

Gneezy, U., Kajackaite, A. & Sobel, J. (2018). Lying aversion and the size of the lie. *American Economic Review*, 108(2), 419-53.

Abeler, J., Nosenzo, D. & Raymond, C. (2019). Preferences for truth-telling. *Econometrica*, 87(4), 1115-1153.

Khalmetski, K. & Sliwka, D. (2019). Disguising lies—Image concerns and partial lying in cheating games. *American Economic Journal: Microeconomics*, 11(4), 79-110.

6. **Policy options to overcome vaccine hesitancy: Ethical considerations**

Chang, T., Jacobson, M., Shah, M., Pramanik, R. & Shah, S. (2021). *Financial Incentives and Other Nudges Do Not Increase COVID-19 Vaccinations among the Vaccine Hesitant*. NBER Working Paper 29403. <http://www.nber.org/papers/w29403>

Dai, H., Saccardo, S., Han, M. A., Roh, L., Raja, N., Vangala, S., ... & Croymans, D. M. (2021). Behavioural nudges increase COVID-19 vaccinations. *Nature*, 597(7876), 404-409.

Karaivanov, A., Dongwoo, K., Lu, S. E. & Shigeoka, H. (2022). *COVID-19 Vaccination Mandates and Vaccine Uptake*. [10.21203/rs.3.rs-1146923/v3](https://doi.org/10.21203/rs.3.rs-1146923/v3)

7. **Patent protection in the case of coronavirus vaccines: can we use established practices during a pandemic? Discuss based on recent research in economics and other relevant empirical literature.**

Budish, E., Roin, B. N. & Williams, H. (2015). Do Firms Underinvest in Long-Term Research? Evidence from Cancer Clinical Trials. *American Economic Review*, 105(7), 2044-85.

Padmanabhan, S., Amin, T., Sampat, B., Cook-Deegan, R. & Chandrasekharan, S. (2010). Intellectual property, technology transfer and manufacture of low-cost HPV vaccines in India. *Nature Biotechnology*, 28(7), 671-678.

8. **Does online media increase political polarization? Discuss based on the empirical literature and the implications for regulations of online media platforms.**

Bail, C. A., Argyle, L. P., Brown, T. W., Bumpus, J. P., Chen, H., Hunzaker, M. F., ... & Volfovsky, A. (2018). Exposure to opposing views on social media can increase political polarization. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, 115(37), 9216-9221.

Gentzkow, M. & Shapiro, J. M. (2011). Ideological segregation online and offline. *The Quarterly Journal of Economics*, 126(4), 1799-1839.

Cinelli, M., Morales, G. D. F., Galeazzi, A., Quattrociocchi, W. & Starnini, M. (2021). The echo chamber effect on social media. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, 118(9).

9. **Nudging can help people to make better decisions such as buying healthier food or choosing the right insurance plan. Discuss the ethical aspects of nudging.**

Bhargava, S. & Loewenstein, G. (2015). Behavioral Economics and Public Policy 102: Beyond Nudging. *American Economic Review*, 105(5), 396-401.

Chetty, R. (2015). Behavioral Economics and Public Policy: A Pragmatic Perspective. *American Economic Review*, 105(5), 1-33.

Thaler, R. H. & Sunstein, C. R. (2003). Libertarian Paternalism. *American Economic Review*, 93(2), 175-179.

10. Due to the rise in inequality, redistribution policies are increasingly debated. Discuss in the light of the experimental literature what might affect individuals support for redistribution policies.

Almås, I., Cappelen, A. W., Sørensen, E. Ø. & Tungodden, B. (2010). Fairness and the development of inequality acceptance. *Science*, 328(5982), 1176-1178.

Cappelen, A. W., Hole, A. D., Sørensen, E. Ø. & Tungodden, B. (2007). The Pluralism of Fairness Ideals: An Experimental Approach. *American Economic Review*, 97(3), 818-827.

Cappelen, A. W., Konow, J., Sørensen, E. Ø. & Tungodden, B. (2013). Just Luck: An Experimental Study of Risk-Taking and Fairness. *American Economic Review*, 103(4), 1398-1413.