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URL: alexrigos.co.uk
Birthdate: July 7th, 1981
Nationality: Greek

Education

Ph.D. Economics candidate (Expected date of thesis submission: Sep 2015)

Thesis title: “Essays on Game Theory and Experiments”

University of Leicester (full time), Feb 2014 – Present.

Supervisors: Martin Kaae Jensen, Chris Wallace.

University of Birmingham (full-time: Sep 2009 – Nov 2011; part-time: Dec 2011 – Feb 2014).

Supervisors: Martin Kaae Jensen, Indrajit Ray.

M.Sc. Economics (with distinction), University of Birmingham, 2009.

Dissertation Title: “The Evolutionary Nature of Altruism in the Workplace”

B.Sc. Physics, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, 2008.

Direction of Study: Astrophysics, Astronomy and Mechanics.

Dissertation Title: “Parametric Instability in Systems with Two Degrees of Freedom”

Employment

University of Birmingham, Birmingham Experimental Economics Laboratory (BEEL)

Research Associate – Lab Manager, December 2011 – April 2014

University of Birmingham, Department of Economics

Teaching Assistant

MSc Micro: Martin Kaae Jensen, Fall 2009 – 2012; Siddhartha Bandyopadhyay, Fall 2013.

BSc Principles of Economics – Micro: Martin Kaae Jensen, Fall 2009 – 2012; Daniela Raeva-Beri, Fall 2013.

BSc Principles of Economics – Macro: James Reade, Spring 2010 – 2012.

BSc Applied Economics and IT Skills: Roger Backhouse and Nicholas Horsewood, Spring 2010.

Introductory Course for General Computer Knowledge (Economics Undergraduates): Fall 2009 – 2013.

Class Teaching Supervisor

BSc Principles of Economics – Microeconomics: Martin Kaae Jensen, Fall 2012.

MSc Dissertation Supervision Assistant

May – Oct 2013: Martin Kaae Jensen (6 students), Brit Grosskopf (6 students).

May – Oct 2012: Brit Grosskopf (5 students), Michalis Drouvelis (8 students).

Research

Research Interests

Game Theory, Evolutionary Game Theory, Learning in Games, Information Acquisition – Rational Inattention, Experimental Economics.

Working Papers

“Assortativity evolving from social dilemmas” (with Heinrich H Nax), Discussion Papers in Economics 15/19, Department of Economics, University of Leicester, 2015. (Currently under review)

“Evolutionary Games with Group Selection” (with Martin Kaae Jensen), Discussion Papers in Economics 14/09, Department of Economics, University of Leicester, 2014. (Currently under review)

Work in Progress (preliminary titles)

“A Beauty Contest with Flexible Information Acquisition”

This paper studies a beauty-contest coordination game. A continuum of players get payoffs based on the squared distance of their action from an unobserved fundamental state of the world and the average action among all players. Each player receives a signal whose probability distribution conditional on the value of the fundamental is part of their strategy. This flexible information acquisition technology allows players to choose not only how precise but also what kind of information they want to get about the fundamental. Information is costly, in particular cost is linear in Shannon’s mutual information measure between the prior of the fundamental and the player’s chosen conditional distribution. The case of a normally distributed fundamental is examined in more detail. Only in this case there exist equilibria whereby the average action of the population is an affine function of the realized value of the fundamental. When unit costs are high, there is a unique equilibrium where players do not acquire information. For lower information unit costs, players restrict their attention around the expected value of the fundamental while paying little attention to fundamental values away from it. As costs get lower, players follow the value of the fundamental more closely. A stronger coordination motive or a more concentrated distribution of the fundamental have the same effect as a higher information cost. In most parameter combinations, there exists a unique equilibrium within the classes of affine equilibria and equilibria without information acquisition. Interestingly, when the coordination motive is high and for relatively high information costs, there is multiplicity of equilibria within the classes considered.

“Can Social Group-Formation Norms Influence Behavior?: An Experimental Study”

We investigate experimentally the impact of different group formation norms expressed by matching rules as in Jensen and Rigos (2014). We implement a random matching rule as well as an assortative matching rule in a 12-player Hawk-Dove game setting. We test whether the different matching rule implementation affects participant behavior. Our findings suggest that increased assortativity induces lower aggression levels which is consistent with theoretical predictions. More than that, we obtain evidence of slow convergence towards equilibrium behavior. We conclude by computationally evaluating the predictions of several learning models through simulations.

Conference and Seminar Presentations

“A Beauty Contest with Flexible Information Acquisition”

Stony Brook 26th International Conference on Game Theory, July 23rd, 2015.

University of Leicester, March 26th, 2015.

“Assortativity evolving from social dilemmas”

Controversies in Game Theory II: Social Preference Theory and Mechanism Design, ETH Zurich, May 27th, 2015 (invited talk).

“Can Social Group-Formation Norms Influence Behavior?”

Alhambra Meets Colosseo: 8th Alhambra Experimental Workshop, LUISS Guido Carli, Rome, October 5th, 2013.

“Evolutionary Games with Group Selection”

Royal Economic Society PhD Meetings & Job Market, UCL, January 10th, 2015.

PhD Conference in Economics, University of Leicester, December 5th, 2014.

Controversies in Game Theory: Homo Oeconomicus vs. Homo Socialis, ETH Zurich, September 12th, 2014 (invited talk).

Norms, Actions, Games 2014, King’s College, London, April 1st, 2014.

UECE Lisbon Meetings 2012: Game Theory and Applications, ISEG/Technical University of Lisbon, October 19th, 2012. (Under the title “Evolutionary Games and Matching Rules”)

Courses and Summer Schools Attended

School and Conference on Control and Games, University of Warwick - Mathematics Research Centre, May 7th – May 10th, 2013.

Doc-Course IMUS 2011: “The Mathematics of Games: Strategies, Cooperation and Fair Division”, Seville, March 14th – March 26th, 2011.

Royal Economic Society Autumn School on “Evolutionary Game Theory and Electricity Markets”, University of Birmingham, September 20th – September 23rd, 2010.

Workshops Attended

York Game Theory Symposium, University of York, May 22nd – May 23rd, 2015.

Workshop in Economic Theory, University of Birmingham, December 12th, 2014.

York Game Theory Symposium, University of York, June 13th – June 14th, 2013.

Manchester Economic Theory 2013 Workshop, University of Manchester, June 5th – June 6th, 2013.

ESRC Seminar Series on Game Theory: “Matching Under Preferences”, London School of Economics, February 6th, 2013.

Spring 2012 Workshop in Economic Theory, Queen Mary College, University of London, May 23rd, 2012.

ESRC Game Theory Workshop “The Empirical Content of Game Theory”, University of Warwick, December 7th, 2011.

ESRC Game Theory Workshop “Correlation and Coordination in Games”, London School of Economics, June 10th, 2011.

“Law, Economics and Institutions Workshop”, University of Birmingham, March 9th, 2011.

British Academy Workshop on “Communication in Teams”, University of Birmingham, November 19th, 2010.

Birmingham Economic Theory Workshop 2009, University of Birmingham, September 18th, 2009.

Scholarships & Awards

University of Leicester Department of Economics Scholarship (full fees + maintenance), February 2014 – September 2015.

Birmingham Experimental Economics Laboratory Funding to conduct experiment, March 2013.

Birmingham Business School funding to attend Doc-Course in Seville, March 2011.

Birmingham Business School Doctoral Research Bursary (full fees), 2009 – 2012.

Professional Membership

Royal Economic Society, 2014 – Present.

IT Skills

TeX, Matlab, Mathematica, z-Tree, ORSEE, Stata, C, C++, HTML, CSS, PHP, SQL, Fortran, Pascal.

Languages

Greek: Native speaker, English: Fluent, French: Basic.

References

Prof. Martin Kaae Jensen

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