

Journal of
Economics and Political Economy

www.kspjournals.org

Volume 2

March 2015

Issue 1

**Bay Area Behavioral and Experimental
Economics Workshop***

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Conference Notes

The goal of the Bay Area Behavioral and Experimental Economics Workshop (BABEEW) was to bring the scholars whose research areas are primarily behavioral and experimental economics. The BABEEW was held on May 3rd, 2014 at Stanford University in Palo Alto, California. Every year this workshop takes place at one of the universities in the Bay Area. As the title of the conference suggests, the conference intended to attract scholars from the west coast of the United States, and especially Bay Area (such as UC Berkeley, UC Santa Cruz, UC San Francisco, Stanford and Santa Clara University), to share their ideas and research. However, conference organizers also invited scholars from all over California and across the US (including Caltech, Chapman, UC Los Angeles, UC San Diego, Claremont Graduate University, Princeton, Tufts, Florida State University and etc.). There were four parallel sessions in which thirty-eight papers were presented and over fifty scholars participated during the workshop. The sessions included during the workshop was titled as: Beliefs, Auctions, Behavioral Finance, Field Experiments, Social Preferences, Structure of Preferences and Social Interactions. The scientific committee of the workshop included Alessandra Cassar (Uni. Of San Francisco), Dan Friendman (UC Santa Cruz), John Ifcher, Linda Kamas (Santa Clara Uni.), and Charles Sprenger (Stanford University). This daylong event started with welcoming remarks to highlight the need and the objective of such concentrated workshop. The workshop organizers received funding from the International Association for Research In Economic Psychology (IAREP), the Society for the Advancement of Behavioral Economics (SABE), and the International Confederation for the Advancement of Behavioral Economics and Economic Psychology (ICABEEP).

The population of the conference was characteristic of the emerging field of behavioral and experimental economics, such that most of the participants were young aspiring academics and a few PhD candidates in the field. This was a small, but very concentrated workshop, which provided a scholarly and friendly environment in which scientists could share and discuss their ongoing and prospective projects and ideas. This environment also created more interactions between the presenters and audience. One of the young scientists, who was unable to extend his research, due to the funding issue, was offered funding by one of the generous participants in order to pursue the study while he was presenting his

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research. This kind and generous gesture was welcomed and applauded by everyone. All the feedback, suggestions, and criticisms presenters received during the presentations were to the point and suggested that participants were very interested about researches presented and eager to learn from each other. In addition, the conference committee was successful in bringing in high quality research and presentations. Therefore, the workshop was a success for the scholars. Sandro Ambuehl, Muriel Niederle (Stanford), Gideon Nave (Caltech), Joshua Tasoff (Claremont Graduate University), Laura K. Gee (Tufts), Aric Shafran (Cal Poly) and Andy Brownback (UC San Diego) are some of the scholars who shared their latest studies with other scientists.

From my institution, Claremont Graduate University, only Dr. Joshua Tasoff and me presented our researches. I presented my forthcoming paper during the second parallel session – field experiments. The presentation was titled “Limited attention in the Household Decisions: Regression Discontinuity Design for Residential Energy End – Users”. The study indicates that without any costly interventions we can achieve significant energy conservation by just understanding decision biases of consumers, which is often a major concern in public utilities’ energy efficiency studies. During the question and answer session, the feedback and suggestions I received led to another forthcoming paper in the field, which my co-authors and I will present in coming conferences.

Workshop organizers also arranged the campus tour of Stanford University, where guests were informed about history of the school, current student and academic life, and opportunities for students to excel in education.



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