Week 8 Reflection

* What have I learnt this week?

Upon reflection, this week’s workshop built on last week’s idea of complexity and emergent behaviour. It introduced unique models such as the colonel blotto game and explored cooperation more by showcasing the famous ‘prisoner’s dilemma’. These two theories are famous in Game Theory and enabled me to learn about economic decision thinking in greater detail and how it combines an individual’s psychological processes when we make everyday decisions.

* What insights have I gained?

The colonel Blotto model was one which significantly stood out to me for several reasons, some of which included its uniqueness and versatility when applying it to real life situations. By understanding how game works with two players and several troops it was insightful to learn that not all troops in the game were required to actually win, and majority of the wins arose from strategic skills. Despite the setting of the game focusing on troops and fronts, this competition was easily applicable in real life situations such as elections and the common workforce. When relating this model to a personal experience of mine, the hiring process, it was interesting to understand how group interviews often involve competing against applicants over relevant skills and abilities. However, at the end of the day, the person who gets hired is not one with the best skills, but the one who ticks most of the criteria, just like the blotto game when the player who allocates the most resources will win. Another example that was relevant to my personal experiences was sports. As someone who plays competitive tennis on a weekly basis, It was insightful to understand how the blotto game mirrors the weekly games I partake in. As a player, I am constantly aiming to compete against my opponent on several aspects such as the return of the serve, strokes, backhands and aces. This makes me reflect what areas I need to develop on, in order to beat the most skill areas against my opponent and ultimately win. Not only did I find this model insightful and interesting as a result of its versatility and adaptability, but it allowed me to think about using this model to showcase my groups topic of ‘strategies to contain covid-19’.