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MIT PLACEMENT OFFICER

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MIT PLACEMENT ADMINISTRATOR

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DOCTORAL STUDIES Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)
 PhD, Economics, Expected completion June 2022
 DISSERTATION: "Essays in Behavioral and Development Economics"

DISSERTATION COMMITTEE AND REFERENCES

Professor Frank Schilbach
 MIT Department of Economics
 77 Massachusetts Avenue, E52-560
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Professor Esther Dufo
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Professor Abhijit Banerjee
 MIT Department of Economics
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PRIOR EDUCATION Ecole Polytechnique 2015
 BSc, Applied Mathematics
 MSc, Economics and Finance (with HEC Paris)

CITIZENSHIP France **GENDER:** Male

LANGUAGES French (native), English (fluent), basics of Spanish, German, Chinese

FIELDS Primary Fields: Behavioral Economics, Health Economics

TEACHING EXPERIENCE Secondary Fields: Development Economics, Applied Microeconomics
 14.160 Behavioral Economics (PhD) 2020
 Teaching Assistant to Professors Frank Schilbach, Abhijit Banerjee, and Dmitry Taubinsky
 14.13 Psychology and Economics (Undergraduate) 2020

	Teaching Assistant to Professor Frank Schilbach	
	14.01 Principles of Microeconomics (Undergraduate)	2020
	Teaching Assistant to Professor Jon Gruber	
	14.137 Psychology and Economics (PhD)	2019
	Teaching Assistant to Professor Drazen Prelec	
	14.26 Economics of Incentives (Undergraduate)	2019
	Teaching Assistant to Bengt Holmstrom and Bob Gibbons	
	Topics in Modern Economics (Masters)	2016
	Teaching Assistant to Professor Jean Tirole	
RELEVANT POSITIONS	Microsoft Research, Research Intern	2017, 2018
	Research Assistant to Professor Jean Tirole	2016
	Research Assistant to Professors Dan Benjamin, Ori Heffetz and Miles Kimball	2016
RESEARCH GRANTS	J-PAL Healthcare Delivery Initiative Pilot Grant (50k)	2021
	J-PAL King Climate Action Initiative travel grant (10k)	2020
	US Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Behavioral Intervention Scholar (25k)	2020
	Russell Sage Foundation Small Grant in Computational Social Sciences (10k)	2020
	Harvard Foundations for Human Behavior (6k)	2020
	MIT Shultz Fund Grants (40k)	2017-2021
	Grants as co-PI with Professors:	
	IPA Peace and Recovery Program (50k)	
	Government of Colombia, Colciencias Grant (152k)	
	Warburg Funds Grant (17k)	
	Harvard Mind Brain Behavior Initiative (50k)	
	MIT SHASS Research Fund Award (9k)	
	Harvard Foundations for Human Behavior (40k)	
FELLOWSHIPS, HONORS, AND AWARDS	MIT Economics Full Fellowship	2016-2022
	Robert M. Solow Fellowship (MIT)	2017
	Ecole Polytechnique Full Fellowship	2012-2015
PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES	Referee: American Economics Review, Quarterly Journal of Economics, Review of Economics and Statistics, PLOS One	
	Conference Presentations: Sloan-NOMIS Workshop on the Cognitive Foundations of Economics Behavior (2019), Harvard Mind Brain Behavior Faculty Retreat (2019)	
	Participant: Sloan-NOMIS Summer School on the Cognitive Foundations of Economics Behavior (2018), Spring School in Behavioral Economics at UC San Diego (2018), BRIQ Summer School in Behavioral Economics (2017)	

- PUBLICATIONS** **“When Guidance Changes: Government Stances and Public Beliefs,”**
Journal of Public Economics, 2021. (with Charlie Rafkin and Advik Shreekumar)
- “Effects of a large-scale social media advertising campaign on holiday travel and COVID-19 infections: a cluster randomized controlled trial,”** *Nature Medicine*, 2021.
(with Fatima Cody Stanford, Marcella Alsan, Burak Alsan, Abhijit Banerjee, Emily Breza, Arun G. Chandrasekhar, Sarah Eichmeyer, Traci Glushko, Paul Goldsmith-Pinkham, Kelly Holland, Emily Hoppe, Mohit Karnani, Sarah Liegl, Tristan Loisel, Lucy Ogbu-Nwobodo, Benjamin A. Olken, Carlos Torres, Erica Warner, Susan Wootton & Esther Duflo)
- “Effect of Physician-delivered COVID-19 Public Health Messages and Messages Acknowledging Racial Inequity on Black and White Adults’ Knowledge, Beliefs, and Practices Related to COVID-19: A Randomized Clinical Trial,”** *JAMA Network Open*, 2021.
(with Carlos Torres, Lucy Ogbu-Nwobodo, Marcella Alsan, Fatima Cody Stanford, Abhijit Banerjee, Emily Breza, Arun Chandrasekhar, Sarah Eichmeyer, Mohit Karnani, Tritan Loisel, Paul Goldsmith-Pinkham, Benjamin Olken, Erica Warner, and Esther Duflo)
- “Comparison of Knowledge and Information-Seeking Behavior After General COVID-19 Public Health Messages and Messages Tailored for Black and Latinx Communities,”** *Annals of Internal Medicine*, 2020.
(with Marcella Alsan, Fatima Cody Stanford, Abhijit Banerjee, Emily Breza, Arun G. Chandrasekhar, Sarah Eichmeyer, Paul Goldsmith-Pinkham, Lucy Ogbu-Nwobodo, Benjamin A. Olken, Carlos Torres, Anirudh Sankar & Esther Duflo)
- RESEARCH PAPERS** **“Managing Emotions: The Effects of Online Mindfulness Meditation on Mental Health and Economic Behavior” (Job Market Paper)**
(with Advik Shreekumar)
Emotions and worries can reduce individuals' available attention and affect economic decisions. In a four-week experiment with 2,384 US adults, offering free access to a popular mindfulness meditation app that costs \$13 per month improves mental health, productivity and decision-making. First, it causes a 0.45 standard deviation reduction in symptoms of stress, anxiety, and depression, comparable to the impacts of expensive in-person therapy, with improvements even among participants with minimal or mild symptoms at baseline. Second, it increases earnings on a proofreading task by 1.9 percent. Third, it makes decision-making more stable across emotional states, reducing the interference of personal worries with risk choices. Overall, our results demonstrate the potential of affordable mindfulness meditation apps to improve mental health, productivity, and the impact of emotions on economic decisions.

“The Long-Run Effects of Psychotherapy on Depression, Beliefs, and Preferences”

(with Bhargav Bhat, Jonathan de Quidt, Johannes Haushofer, Vikram Patel, Gautam Rao and Frank Schilbach)

We study the long-run effects of psychotherapy on mental health, self-confidence, economic preferences and employment. We revisit participants from two clinical trials in India that randomized depressed adults to a brief course of psychotherapy, costing only \$66 per recipient and delivered by non-specialists, or to a control condition. Three to five years after treatment ended, we find significantly reduced depression scores, increased remission from depression, and improved mood in the treatment group. Motivated by hypotheses in psychology, we next examine the relationship between depression, self-confidence and belief updating. We find that therapy reduced overconfidence in a work task by causing individuals to update their beliefs more evenly in response to positive and negative feedback. It also led to increases in self-evaluations of prosociality and risk tolerance. We detect no significant impacts of treatment on patience, nor on employment or consumption.

**RESEARCH IN
PROGRESS****“The Role of Memory in Beliefs Formation”**

(with Lukas Bolte, Markus Mobius and Tanya Rosenblat)

Individuals constantly absorb information, aggregate this information into beliefs and then use these beliefs to make decisions. An extensive literature has studied learning frictions arising from failures to use Bayes rule, but little is known about the consequences of limited memory for beliefs formation. Using a simple model grounded in psychology research on memory, assuming that agents know Bayes rule but have limited memory, we show that the timing at which raw signals are processed into beliefs can lead to different patterns of errors. Beliefs can be updated in real time as soon as new information is received, or they can be formed ex-post by looking back at received information. We argue that both models are empirically relevant, depending on whether the decision problem is known in advance or not, and design an experiment to test the predictions of the model.

“Information Choice, Metacognition, and the Demand for Motivated Beliefs”

(with Spencer Kwon and William Murdock III)

How do individuals choose between information sources with a known bias when they intrinsically value holding certain beliefs? We model an individual's perception of her own learning biases and argue that under certain conditions, she might choose information sources that she believes will lead her to learn with a bias. This requires a behavioral assumption that goes strongly against rationality: the individual must predict that she learns with a bias, and still fail to correct for this perceived bias when processing information. We design an experiment to assess the prevalence of this mechanism. By manipulating individuals' perceptions of their own biases following different information

sources, we test for a causal relationship from metacognition (the perception of one's learning biases) to information source choice and final beliefs biases.

“Mindfulness at Work: A Randomized Controlled Trial of Mindfulness Meditation with Employees in a Large Colombian Organization”

On hold due to COVID-19.