ALISHER BATMANOV

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UC San Diego

Education	**University of California San Diego**
	Ph.D. Economics, 2021 to 2027 (expected)
	Central European University, Austria
	M.A. Economics, *summa cum laude*, 2021
	Nazarbayev University, Kazakhstan
	B.A. Economics, *magna cum laude*, 2019
Fields	Experimental Economics
	Behavioral Economics

References

Professor Emanuel Vespa
University of California San Diego
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Professor Isabel Treviño
University of California San Diego
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Professor Marta Serra-Garcia
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Professor Denis Shishkin
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Working Papers

"Mental Models, Social Learning and Statistical Discrimination: A Laboratory Study"

In economic decision-making, individuals often rely on subjective representation of the environment to process information and make inferences. Using a laboratory experiment, we investigate how such mental models transform when people are exposed to the evaluations of others, particularly in scenarios where one or more parties may adopt an incorrect or *misspecified* model. Participants face a hiring task where their goal is to choose a worker with higher ability by integrating a noisy education signal with prior group information. The design of treatment conditions variably exposes subjects to choices by another participant, using one group to present evaluations closely aligned with the theoretical Bayesian benchmark and another to expose subjects to evaluations from a participant exhibiting signal neglect. We find that exposure to conservative choices leads to higher incidence of suboptimal behavior relative to exposure to Bayesian choices. Using elicited confidence measure and a diagnostic treatment with detailed feedback, we explore potential mechanisms. The results suggest that not recognizing optimality of others' choices partially hinders social learning. In addition, lower confidence in one's choices is strongly associated with following others' suboptimal actions, but not with learning from the optimal ones.

"Beliefs and Demand for Mental Health Services Among University Students" (with Idaliya Grigoryeva, Bruno Calderón-Hernández, Roberto González-Téllez, Alejandro Guardiola)

This paper investigates the role of beliefs and stigma in shaping students' use of professional mental health services at a large private university in Mexico, where supply-side barriers are minimal, and services are readily accessible. In an online experiment with 680 students, we estimate a large treatment gap with nearly 50% of students in distress not receiving professional mental health support despite a high level of awareness and perceived effectiveness. We document stigmatized beliefs and misconceptions correlated with the treatment gap. For example, three-quarters of students

incorrectly believe that those in distress perform worse academically, and many underestimate how common therapy use is among their peers. To correct inaccurate beliefs, we implement an information intervention and find that it increases students' willingness to share on-campus mental health resources with peers and encourages them to recommend these resources when advising a friend in distress. However, we also find that it lowers their willingness to pay for external services, suggesting a potential substitution effect from private therapy to free on-campus resources.

Work in Progress	**"Learning Under Contingent Thinking"** (with Jeongbin Kim, Emanuel Vespa)
	"Narrative and Bayesian Persuasion" (with Bridget Galaty)

Teaching	Microeconomics A, UC San Diego, course instructor, 2025
	Econometrics B, UC San Diego, course instructor, 2024
	Principles of Microeconomics, UC San Diego, TA for Prof. Melissa Famulari, 2024-2025
	Experiments in Firms, UC San Diego, TA for Prof. Sally Sadoff and Prof. Anya Samek, 2024-2025
	Microeconomics B, UC San Diego, TA for Prof. Aram Grigoryan, 2024
	Game Theory, UC San Diego, TA for Prof. Joel Watson and Prof. Denis Shishkin, 2023-2024
	Econometrics B (PhD level), UC San Diego, TA for Prof. Xinwei Ma, 2023

Research	Research Assistant for Professor Marc Kaufmann, Central European University, 2020

Seminars & Conferences	Economic Science Association North American Meeting, Columbus, 2024
	Behavioral & Experimental Economics Student Conference, Caltech, 2023-2024
	Los Angeles Experiments (LAX) Conference, Caltech, 2024
	Learning, Computational and Bayesian Methods in Experimental Economics, Purdue, 2024
	CTESS Summer Institute in Theory-Based Experiments, Caltech, 2023

Research Grants	The Weiss Fund for Research in Development Economics, 2023-2024
	UC-Mexico Alianza Short-Term Research Stay in Mexico, 2024
	Institute for Humane Studies - Conference Accelerator Grant, 2024
	Foundation of Budapest Research Grant, Central European University, 2021

Fellowships & Awards	Diversity Research Fellowship, UC San Diego, 2024
	Regents and Summer Research Fellowship, UC San Diego, 2021-2022
	Peter Hangartner Prize and Fellowship, Central European University, 2021
	Outstanding Student in Economics Award, Nazarbayev University, 2019

Languages	Kazakh (native), English (fluent), Russian (fluent)
Software skills	Python, Stata, Matlab, Julia, oTree, JavaScript