

DAVID ALBRECHT (HE/HIM)

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🌐 Personal Website in LinkedIn GitHub

SUMMARY

I am a behavioral economist with professional experience in consulting, interested in generating and applying data-driven insights on questions related to economics and decision-making. In my research, I explore topics such as economic preferences and group behavior using meta- and crowdsience approaches, experiments, surveys, structural estimations, Bayesian statistics, and machine learning.

CURRENT POSITION

Postdoctoral Researcher / Research and Lab Coordinator *since Oct 2024*
WZB - Berlin Social Science Center - Markets & Choice
Lab² - Incubator for replicability, meta- and crowdsience, Prof. Dr. Anna Dreber & Dr. Levent Neyse

EDUCATION

PhD in Human Decisions & Policy Design (Economics) *2019 - 2024*
Maastricht University, Netherlands

M.Sc. in Economics and Management Science (MEMS) *2014 - 2017*
Humboldt University, Berlin, Germany

Thesis: *Probability Perception in Decision Making under Risk*

B.A. in Economics and Sociology *2011 - 2014*
Georg August University, Göttingen, Germany

REFERENCES

Levent Neyse (lneyse (at) diw.de)
Social Science Center Berlin (WZB)
German Socio-Economic Panel (SOEP) at German Institute for Economic Research (DIW)

Martin Strobel (m.strobel (at) maastrichtuniversity.nl)
Maastricht University, Microeconomics & Public Economics

Thomas Meissner (t.meissner (at) maastrichtuniversity.nl)
Maastricht University, Microeconomics & Public Economics

RESEARCH PAPERS

Mitigating manipulation in committees: Just let them talk! Job Market Paper

I analyze how the format of interaction and threats of manipulation influence the accuracy and trustworthiness of judgments derived in small groups such as expert committees or project teams.

Debt Aversion: Theory and Measurement (with Thomas Meissner)

We propose a formal model incorporating debt aversion as a genuine domain of preferences and use a novel experiment to jointly estimate debt aversion with preferences over time, risk, and losses.

The Debt Aversion Survey Module: An experimentally validated tool to measure individual debt aversion (with Thomas Meissner)

We develop an experimentally validated, short and easy-to-use survey module for measuring individual preferences towards saving and borrowing, as if elicited through an incentivized experiment.

ONGOING RESEARCH

#ManyDaughters: Multi-Analyst Project Exploring the Effect of Daughters on Preferences and Behaviors (with Aurélien Baillon, Anna Dreber, Frank M. Fossen Felix Holzmeister, Taisuke Imai, Magnus Johannesson, Levent Neyse, Séverine Toussaert, Yifan Yang)

Research teams submit a pre-analysis plan and analysis code to test four hypotheses about the impact of having daughters on attitudes, preferences, and behaviors.

Lab² Many Labs study—ML² (with Aurélien Baillon, Anna Dreber, Felix Holzmeister, Taisuke Imai, Magnus Johannesson, Levent Neyse and Severine Toussaert)

We collect data from 50+ labs to provide high-powered tests of key methodological issues in experimental economics, estimate heterogeneity in treatment effects, and replicate seminal findings.

Debt aversion among German households (with Thomas Meissner)

We investigate the relation of individual debt attitudes to other socio-economic characteristics and its predictive power for real-world behavior based on a German representative sample.

Expanding Moral Wiggle Room: A Large-Scale Online Replication and the Role of Moral Context (with Hande Erkut, Jakob Möller, Levent Neyse)

We replicate and extend the influential research on "moral wiggle room" demonstrating how reduced transparency in dictator games enables self-interested behavior through willful ignorance.

CONTRIBUTION TO CROWDSCIENCE PROJECTS

Examining the generalizability of research findings from archival data (Andrew Delios, Elena Giulia Clemente, Tao Wu, Hongbin Tan, Yong Wang, Michael Gordon, Domenico Viganola, Zhaowei Chen, Anna Dreber, Magnus Johannesson, Thomas Pfeiffer, Eric Luis Uhlmann)

Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, 2022

Social norms and honest behavior across countries (led by Filippas Exadaktylos)

ACADEMIC VISITS

Visiting Graduate Student

Oct 2023

Technische Universität Berlin, Germany - Host Prof. Dr. Frank Heinemann

Visiting Graduate Student

Sep 2022 - Jan 2023

University of California, San Diego - Rady School of Management, USA - Host Uri Gneezy

AWARDS

Maastricht University - GSBE International Travel Grant (€3000)

2022

- Research visit - Rady School of Management at UC San Diego

Maastricht University - GSBE Grant for Primary Data Collection (€7200)

2021

- Hidden Agendas in Small Group Judgment Aggregation

SEMINAR ORGANIZATION

Interdisciplinary Seminar of Behavioral Sciences – Theory and Empirics

2022 - 2024

- [link to seminar webpage](#)

TEACHING AND TEACHING INNOVATION

Maastricht University

2019 - 2023

- Economics and Business, History of Economic Thought, Public Economics, Data Workshops (Python), Economy Game, Economy Game for MBA, Growth & Institutions
- Economy Game 2.0: Develop a double auction market tool in oTree (Python, JavaScript, and HTML) to facilitate experience-based education on markets and their economic implications.

ACADEMIC PRESENTATIONS

Berlin Social Science Center Markets & Choice Seminar

2025

UM Behavioral Insights Center Research Retreat

2023

ESA Job Market Seminar Series

ESA Europe Meeting Exeter

EEA ESEM Meeting Barcelona

Maastricht Behavioral Economics Symposium

IAREP SABE Annual Meeting Nice

ESA North America Meeting Santa Barbara

2022

UC San Diego Theoretical & Behavioral Economics Seminar

UC San Diego Graduate Student Research Seminar

Maastricht University Interdisciplinary Seminar of Behavioral Sciences – Theory and Empirics

Maastricht University BEElab meeting

ESA Global Conference (online)

2021

EADM Subjective Probability, Utility and Decision Making Conference (online)

Maastricht Behavioral Economics Symposium

Lyon-Maastricht Behavioral Workshop (online)

Maastricht University MU-CEN Seminar

Maastricht University Behavioral and Experimental Economics Reading Group

2020

PREVIOUS POSITIONS

Affiliated Researcher (earlier PhD Candidate) - Behavioral Economics 2019 - 2024
Maastricht University, The Netherlands
PhD Graduation Feb 2024 - Supervisors: Alexander Brüggem, Martin Strobel, and Thomas Meissner

Senior Consultant (earlier Consultant) 2017 - 2019
BwConsulting GmbH, Berlin, Germany

- Solved managerial and economic challenges of the German Ministry of Defence by applying good project and change management practices to a major organizational area of ~35 000 employees.
- Implemented a goal-oriented system of strategic development and program management.
- Lead-authored papers on behavioral insights for strategic decisions and robotic process automation.

Research Associate (20h/week) 2015 - 2016
NERA Economic Consulting, Berlin, Germany

- Supported competition economics and energy practice case work in data management and analysis, damage quantification, and market share calculation workflows.

Various internships in Economic and Management Consulting 2014 - 2017
FehrAdvice & Partners AG (Zurich - CHE), Deutsche Bahn Management Consulting (Berlin - GER), IGEF Foundation (Gurgaon - IND)

INVOLVEMENT

Foodsaver 2020 - 2022
Foodsharing Maastricht, Netherlands

- Fight food waste by collecting and redistributing expired, edible food from vendors and retailers.

SKILLS AND INTERESTS

Technical: MS Office, R, LaTeX, oTree, zTree, Python, Stata, Mata, ORSEE, GitHub, PostgreSQL

Soft Skills: Lead projects, present to various audiences, experimental research, academic teaching

Fields of Interest: Behavioral Science, Data Analysis, Effective Altruism, Sustainable Growth, Bicycles and Cycling, Espresso, Cuisine and Food Production, Tailoring, Urban Gardening, and many more

Languages: German (native), English (C2), Dutch (B2), Italian (B1), French (A2)