

Hyundam Je

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RESEARCH INTEREST

Behavioral Economics, Experimental Economics, and Decision Theory.

EDUCATION

Texas A&M University, College Station, Texas 2017-2023(expected)
Ph.D. Economics

Committee: Alexander L. Brown (chair), Huiyi Guo, Catherine Eckel, Hwagyun Kim

Sungkyunkwan University, Seoul, Korea 2015-2017
M.A. Economics

Sungkyunkwan University, Seoul, Korea 2009-2015
B.A. Economics

WORKING PAPERS

Intrinsic Preference for High Cardinality in Informative Signals (Job Market Paper)

In the context of information acquisition, cardinality, the dimension of the signal space, represents the number of possible signals the receiver can receive. I provide the first experimental evidence that information receivers consider not only the signal's informativeness but also its cardinality. When purchasing informative signals, subjects prefer signals with higher cardinalities to lower ones, even if the ex-ante signal accuracies are the same. The results also reveal a pattern of (aggregate) preference reversal: when the signal was given, the preference for high cardinality vanished. Preference reversal suggests the preference for high cardinality is intrinsic, for instance, curiosity. The experimental findings have two main practical implications. First, information providers can make their services look more attractive by simply increasing the size of the signal space. Second, the experimental findings of this paper challenge the commonly used assumption in the signaling environment in information economics, which is that signal space is equal to the action space. No known theoretical framework, including the expected utility model, recursive smooth ambiguity model, rank-dependent utility model, and prospect theory model, can explain the experimental findings.

Preferences for the Resolution of Risk and Ambiguity (with Alexander L. Brown and Huiyi Guo) *Revise & Resubmit, Journal of Economic Theory*

Models of recursive utility are becoming increasingly common as alternatives to expected utility theory. These models have successfully explained many “anomalies” in the field data, but necessarily imply that agents have a preference over the resolution of uncertainty. The best evidence that this implication is reasonable comes from experimental data. While uncertainty includes both risk and ambiguity, by definition, all previous experimental studies investigating uncertainty resolution have only elicited preferences over uncertainty resolution in the domain of objective uncertainty, i.e., risk. Further, not all recursive models can accommodate preferences over both the resolution or risk and uncertainty. We provide the first experimental examination

of uncertainty resolution with respect to subjective uncertainty, i.e., ambiguity, in addition to risk. We find that most subjects exhibit a preference for early resolution of both risk and ambiguity and these preferences are positively correlated. Also, being ambiguity-seeking decreases the probability of preferring early resolution of ambiguity. Of six representative recursive utility models used in the macroeconomic and finance literature, only the generalized recursive smooth ambiguity model of Hayashi and Miao (2011) can plausibly explain these experimental findings.

Preferences over Ambiguity in Vaccination Decisions (with Alexander L. Brown, Ceyhun Eksin, and Martial Ndeffo Mbah)

Vaccine hesitancy presents one of the largest impediments to public health policy. Various explanations have been used to explain why certain individuals choose not to take vaccines when risks overwhelmingly favor vaccine use. We examine a novel explanation developed from economic theory: ambiguity aversion. Because the advent of new vaccines will always lag their corresponding disease, by the time a vaccine is available, the risks of the disease are well-known while the risks of the vaccine are uncertain. Using the Interactive Vaccination (I-Vax) Game from Bohm et al., we examine vaccine take-up in the standard game vs. a game where the risks of vaccine are ambiguous. We find that the vaccination take-up rate is lower in the ambiguity treatment even though the vaccination option stochastically dominates the vaccination option in the baseline treatment. Elicited subjects' attitudes toward ambiguity are predictive of their vaccination decisions. Ambiguity averse (seeking) subjects are more (less) likely to take the vaccination in general, but differentially less (more) likely in the ambiguity treatment.

**WORK IN
PROGRESS**

"Timing of Informativeness"

"Non-Optimal Behaviors in Bayesian Persuasion: Confusion, Kindness, or Altruism?"

**TEACHING
EXPERIENCE**

Instructor, Texas A&M University

Games and Economic Behavior

Spring 2021

Teaching Assistant, Texas A&M University

Principles of Microeconomics

Summer 2022

Experimental Economics (PhD level)

Fall 2020

Behavioral Financial Economics (Master level)

Fall 2019, Fall 2020,

Fall 2021, Fall 2022

Games and Economic Behavior

Fall 2019, Spring 2020

Antitrust Economics

Spring 2019

Microeconomic Theory I (PhD level)

Fall 2018

Teaching Assistant, Sungkyunkwan University

Macroeconomics

Fall 2016

Microeconomics

Spring 2016

Microeconomics 2 (Graduate level)

Fall 2015, Fall 2016

Mathematical Economics

Fall 2015, Fall 2016

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE	Research Assistant for Dr. Danila Serra, Texas A&M University	Spring 2020
	Research Assistant for Dr. Alexander L. Brown, Texas A&M University	Spring 2019, Summer 2020, Fall 2021, Spring 2022
PRESENTATIONS AND PARTICIPATIONS	2021: ESA Global Meetings; ESA North American Regional Meeting; European Winter Meeting of the Econometric Society	
	2022: ESA World Meeting; Experimental Finance 2022 Bonn; The 2022 Foundations of Utility and Risk (FUR) Conference, San Diego Spring School 2022, ESA North American Meeting (Expected), Texas Theory Camp (Expected), KAEA Job Market Conference (Expected)	
REFeree	<i>Journal of Behavioral Public Administration</i>	
HONORS AND AWARDS	Texas A&M University	
	College Summer Graduate Research Grant	Summer 2022
	Graduate Assistantship	Fall 2018-present
	Dennis Jansen Scholarship	Spring 2018
	Sungkyunkwan University	
	Simsan Scholarship	Spring 2016
	Masters and Doctors Connected Track Scholarship	Spring 2015 - Spring 2016
	Bachelors and Masters Connected Track Scholarship	Fall 2014
	Talented Students Scholarship	Spring 2013 - Fall 2014
	University Scholarship	Fall 2013
	Dean's List Award	Spring 2013
	Pursuit of Excellence Scholarship	Spring 2010, Fall 2010
	Outstanding Student Representative Scholarship	Spring 2009
SKILLS	STATA, z-Tree, oTree, Python, Qualtrics, L ^A T _E X, Matlab	
LANGUAGES	English (fluent), Korean (native)	
ACTIVITIES	Military Service	
	KATUSA (Korean Augmentation To the United States Army)	2011-2013
	served as a private-sergeant in the U.S. 2nd Infantry Division "Indianhead" (2ID).	
REFERENCES	Alexander L. Brown	Huiyi Guo
	Department of Economics	Department of Economics
	Texas A&M University	Texas A&M University
	alexbrown@tamu.edu	huiyiguo@tamu.edu
	Kirby Nielsen	
	Department of Economics	
	California Institute of Technology	
	kirby@caltech.edu	