

Jonas Pilgaard Kaiser

POSTDOC, THE TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY OF BERLIN · BEHAVIOURAL & EXPERIMENTAL ECONOMICS

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Research Interests

Primary Behavioural Economics, Experimental Economics
Secondary Behavioural Ethics, Political Economy

Current Employment

Postdoc The Technical University of Berlin, since September 2023 (5-year contract)

Education

PhD, Economics

AARHUS UNIVERSITY

- Supervisors: Alexander Koch & Daniele Nosenzo
- PhD Committee: Nicola Maaser, Bertil Tungodden, & Joël van der Weele

Aarhus, Denmark
2023

Visiting PhD Student

NORWEGIAN SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS, NHH

- Hosts: Bertil Tungodden & Alexander Cappelen

Bergen, Norway
Four months, 2022

Master's degree, Economics and Management

AARHUS UNIVERSITY

- Extra-curricular summer course in development economics at LSE
- GPA: 11.8 (top 1%)

Aarhus, Denmark
2021

Bachelor's degree, Economics and Management

AARHUS UNIVERSITY

- Peer-reviewed publication based on Bachelor's thesis
- GPA: 11.7 (top 2%)

Aarhus, Denmark
2018

Upper Secondary Education

EGAA GYMNASIUM

- Selected for the Academy for Talented Youth
- GPA: 13.3 (highest in the history of the gymnasium)

Egaa, Denmark
2015

Affiliations

2024-present **Berlin School of Economics**
2024-present **Berlin Centre for Consumer Policies**
2023-present **Berlin Behavioral Economics Group**
2022-present **Copenhagen Network of Experimental Economists**
2020-2023 **Centre for Integrative Business Psychology, Aarhus University**
2019-2023 **Cognition and Behavior Lab, Aarhus University**

References

Prof. Alexander Koch
Aarhus University
akoch@econ.au.dk

Prof. Daniele Nosenzo
Aarhus University
daniele.nosenzo@econ.au.dk

Prof. Bertil Tungodden
Norwegian School of Economics
Bertil.Tungodden@nhh.no

Previous Employment

- 2020-2022 **Coordinator and Tutor**, Danish Refugee Council
2020 **Co-Author of De Pengepressede**, Ungdomsbureauet (The Youth Bureau)
2018-2020 **Teaching Assistant**, Aarhus University
2019 **Intern**, ScienceAtHome, Aarhus University
2018-2019 **Research Assistant for Prof. Alexander Koch**, Aarhus University
2016-19 **Conference Organiser**, Aarhus Symposium
2014-2019 **Various Teaching Positions**, The Mobile University, Self-Employed, & Egaa Gymnasium

Publications

Does goal revision undermine self-regulation through goals? An experiment (with A. Koch and J. Nafziger, *Experimental Economics*, 2024, [LINK](#))

Do Economists Punish Less? (with K. S. Pedersen and A. Koch, *Games*, 9(4), 75, 2018, [LINK](#))

Working Papers

Do External Threats Reduce Affective Polarization? An Experiment on Russia's Invasion of Ukraine (with M. Seier, *LINK*)
Revise & Resubmit, Journal of Politics

In many countries, partisans have become increasingly biased in how they evaluate others based on political affiliation. We suggest that this increase in affective polarization may in part be caused by changes in the global power distribution which caused many countries to experience a long period without external (military) threats. To study the importance of external threats, we conduct a priming experiment to examine how making Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine in 2022 salient causally influences affective polarization and collaboration in the U.S. We find that priming Americans with Russia's military aggression leads to a modest reduction in affective polarization and an increase in cooperativeness as measured by behavior in an incentivized coordination game. Surprisingly, the effect of making Russia's invasion salient does not depend on perceived cross-party disagreement about the conflict. These results suggest that researchers should also consider international relations to understand within-country polarization and willingness to collaborate.

Growth and Inequality: How Does Correcting Misperceptions Affect Redistribution? ([LINK](#))
In Review

Income and wealth grow over time, and this leads to changes in the level of inequality in a society. Yet, a large literature in cognitive psychology suggests that individuals often struggle to understand the effect of exponential growth. Failing to grasp how inequality develops may lead to biased preferences for policies with long-term effects, from taxation to investments in education. In an incentivised experiment, I examine (i) whether individuals are able to predict how exponential economic growth influences inequality, and (ii) whether informing individuals about the actual development of inequality influences their preferences for redistribution. I find that most people underestimate how much inequality increases in the presence of growth. However, informing individuals about the actual level of inequality does not affect their preferences for redistribution. Rather, what matters is whether people know if redistribution will come at a personal cost to themselves.

Bluffing in Charitable Giving – An Experiment on Indirect Signalling (with J. Koch, [LINK](#))
In Review

People often care about how they are perceived by others, and this motivates many individuals to act in a way that sends a favourable signal about their character. In this paper, we introduce a decomposition of signalling into its direct and indirect components: behaviour can influence a person's image *directly*, and it can influence a person's image *indirectly* by changing people's beliefs about important, unobserved behaviours. We show in an experiment on charitable giving that this distinction is necessary for understanding signalling behaviour: many donors engage in wasteful signalling with actions that are in themselves unimportant for the donors' image (the number of charities they give to), but only if this action changes beliefs about important, unobserved behaviour (how much they donate). Understanding the two components of signalling is key for designing organisations to avoid strategic and wasteful signalling.

Presentations

- 2024 ECWE, Verona; ESA Helsinki; Nordic Conference on Behavioral and Experimental Economics
- 2023 Thurgau Experimental Economics Meeting; Department for Economics and Business Economics, Aarhus University; Institute of Economics and Law, Technical University of Berlin; BERG (Internal Seminar of the Berlin Behavioral Economics Group)
- 2022 Centre for Experimental Research on Fairness, Inequality and Rationality (FAIR) at NHH, Bergen; Department for Economics and Business Economics, Aarhus University; Department of Political Science, Aarhus University; Workshop for Danish Graduate Programme in Economics (DGPE); Fairness and the Moral Mind Workshop at FAIR, NHH
- 2021 Department for Economics and Business Economics, Aarhus University; Max Planck Summer School on The Political Economy of Conflict and Redistribution; Workshop for Danish Graduate Programme in Economics (DGPE); Copenhagen Network of Experimental Economics
- 2020 Interacting Minds Centre; Copenhagen Network of Experimental Economics; Department for Economics and Business Economics, Aarhus University; Workshop for Danish Graduate Programme in Economics (DGPE)

Teaching Experience

Average Evaluation: 4.6/5

- 2023-present **Supervisor, the Technical University of Berlin**
 - Bachelor's theses: 2 students
 - Master's theses: 1 student
- 2023-present **Lecturer, the Technical University of Berlin**
 - Advanced Microeconomics
 - Wirtschaftspolitik (Economic Policy)
 - Öffentliche Finanzen (Public Economics)
- 2020-2023 **Supervisor, Aarhus University**
 - Bachelor's theses: 10 students
 - Master's topic: 1 student
 - Master's theses: 1 student
- 2020-2021 **Lecturer, Aarhus University**
 - Game Theory
 - Micro 1
- 2018-2019 **Teaching Assistant, Aarhus University**
 - Game Theory
 - International Trade
 - Mathematics for Economists
 - Principles of Micro and Macro
- 2017-2019 **Student Teacher, The Mobile University**
 - Game Theory

Professional Service

SERVICE

- 2021-2023 **Departmental Forum**, PhD Representative. Department of Economics and Business Economics, Aarhus University

PEER REVIEW

European Economic Review, Journal of Economic Behavior & Organization, The Scandinavian Journal of Economics

Grants

2024	Research Grant (Co-PI) , IfW Kiel, “Social Norms in Group Decision-Making”	EUR 9,815
	Research Grant (Co-PI) , University of Hamburg, “Social Norms in Group Decision-Making”	EUR 2,750
	Research Grant (Co-PI) , BCCP, “Social Norms in Group Decision-Making”	EUR 800
2023	International Postdoc (PI) , Independent Research Fund Denmark, “When and How Do People Want to Reduce Inequality?”. <i>I declined due to a postdoc offer at TU Berlin</i>	DKK 1,890,377
2022	Research Grant (Co-PI) , University of Hamburg, “Endless Possibilities: How Do People Choose the Number of Recipients to Donate to?”	EUR 11,600
	Travel Grant , Familien Hede Nielsens Fond, Research stay at NHH in Bergen, Norway	DKK 5,000
2021	Travel Grant , William Demant Fonden, Research stay at NHH in Bergen, Norway	DKK 11,000
	Travel Grant , Knud Højgaards Fond, Research stay at NHH in Bergen, Norway	DKK 13,000
	Research Grant (PI) , Aarhus University, “Growth and Inequality: Experimental Evidence on How Misperceptions Affect Redistribution”	DKK 70,000
	Research Grant (PI) , Centre for Integrative Business Psychology, “Growth and Inequality: Experimental Evidence on How Misperceptions Affect Redistribution”	DKK 30,000
2020	Research Grant (Co-I) , Interacting Minds Centre, “Does Goal Revision Undermine Self-Regulation Through Goals? An Experiment”	DKK 70,000
	Research Grant (Co-I) , Aarhus University, “Does Goal Revision Undermine Self-Regulation Through Goals? An Experiment”	DKK 30,000
2019	PhD Scholarship , Aarhus University	
2017	Research Grant (PI) , Interacting Minds Centre, “Do Economists Punish Less?”	DKK 5,000

Professional Development

Funding	Course on funding, Elsevier Research Academy Workshop on the national and international funding landscape, Aarhus University Workshop on good grantsmanship, Aarhus University
Research	Course on data management and the FAIR Principles, Elsevier Research Academy PhD course on literature search, Aarhus University PhD course on research ethics, Aarhus University Workshop on how to conduct online experiments, Interacting Minds Centre
Teaching	Course on active student participation, Aarhus University Course on didactic principles and communication, The Mobile University Course on teaching online, The University of New South Wales, Sidney PhD course on teaching techniques, Aarhus University
Writing	Course on the foundations of academic writing, Aarhus University PhD course on good writing practices, Aarhus University PhD course on how to get published, Aarhus University

Skills

Softwares	Stata, L ^A T _E X, Qualtrics, MS Office
Languages	Danish (native), English (fluent), German (fluent)