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Academic Positions

8/2019 – present: Assistant Professor, School of Economics, University College Dublin.
2/2020 – present: Research Fellow, Geary Institute for Public Policy, University College Dublin.
1/2018 – 4/2019: Postdoctoral Fellow, International Institute for Industrial Environmental Economics (IIIEE), Lund University.

Education

2012 – 2017: PhD in Economics, Lund University.
2010 – 2012: MSc in Economics, Lund University.
2005 – 2009: BCom in Economics & Finance, The University of Sydney.
2005 – 2009: BSc in Mathematics, The University of Sydney.

Research Interests

Behavioral Economics, Experimental Economics, Political Economy.

Publications

Journal Articles

Samahita, M. (2020). Pay-what-you-want in competition. *The B.E. Journal of Theoretical Economics*, 20(1): 20180063.
Mundaca, L. and Samahita, M. (2020). What drives home solar PV uptake? Subsidies, peer effects and visibility in Sweden. *Energy Research & Social Science*, 60:101319.
Holm, H. J. and Samahita, M. (2018). Curating social image: Experimental evidence on the value of actions and selfies. *Journal of Economic Behavior & Organization*, 148:83–104.
Samahita, M. (2017). Venting and gossiping in conflicts: Verbal expression in ultimatum games. *Journal of Behavioral and Experimental Economics*, 67:111–121.
Kahsay, G. A. and Samahita, M. (2015). Pay-What-You-Want pricing schemes: A self-image perspective. *Journal of Behavioral and Experimental Finance*, 7:17–28.
Samahita, M. (2013). Effect of effort on self-image: Monotonically increasing self-image functions. *Economics Bulletin*, 33(1):152–157.

Book Chapter

Mundaca, L., Samahita, M., Sonnenschein, J. and Seidl, R. (2020). Behavioural economics for energy and climate change policies and the transition to a sustainable energy use: A Scandinavian perspective. In M. Lopes, C. Henggeler Antunes & K. B. Janda (Eds.), *Energy and Behaviour: Towards a Low Carbon Future*, (pp. 45–87). London: Academic Press.

Working Papers

The unintended side effects of regulating charities: Donors penalise administrative burden almost as much as overheads (with L. K. Lades).

Pessimism and overcommitment: An online experiment with tempting YouTube content (with C. Ek).

Can ♥s change minds? Social media endorsements and policy preferences (with P. Conzo, L. K. Taylor, J. S. Morales and A. Gallice).

The inelastic demand for affirmative action (with D. Getik and M. Islam).

Mining for mood effect in the field (with H. J. Holm).

Grants and Scholarships

2021: Horizon 2020 - Research and Innovation Framework Programme, “The Integrator-centric approach for realising innovative energy efficient buildings in connected sustainable green neighbourhoods” (with PROBONO consortium).

2021: Science Foundation Ireland, “Next Generation Energy Systems (NexSys)” (with UCD Energy Institute consortium).

2021: Irish Economic Association, “Research on Diversity in Economics”.

2021: UCD College of Social Sciences and Law Research Grant, “Partisanship and the wisdom of crowds” (with T. Yasseri).

2020: Collegio Carlo Alberto Mini Seed Grants Program, “Political interaction and influence through social media” (with J. S. Morales, P. Conzo, A. Gallice and L. K. Taylor).

2020: Einaudi Institute for Economics and Finance Research Grant, “Political interaction and influence through social media” (with J. S. Morales, P. Conzo, A. Gallice and L. K. Taylor).

2020: Irish Research Council New Foundations Research Grant, “Charitable-giving and regulatory load: Does perception of inefficiency reduce donations?”.

2020: UCD College of Social Sciences and Law Research Grant, “Metrics, interaction and influence: The immigration debate on social media” (with J. S. Morales, P. Conzo, A. Gallice and L. K. Taylor).

2019: Jan Wallander and Tom Hedelius Foundation Research Grant, “Causes of heterogeneous beliefs and behavior” (with H. J. Holm, M. Islam, R. van Veldhuizen and E. Wengström).

2018: Torsten Söderberg Foundation Research Grant, “The benefits of temptation? Self-control, self-confidence and economic choice” (with C. Ek).

2016: The Arne Ryde Foundation Scholarship.

2016: The Pontus Roos Memorial Foundation Scholarship.

2016: Institute of Economic Research Scholarship.

2014: Jan Wallander and Tom Hedelius Foundation Research Grant, “Self-image and economic behavior” (with C. Ek, H. J. Holm, N. Montinari and E. Wengström).

2013: Jan Wallander and Tom Hedelius Foundation Hedelius Scholarship for Postgraduate Studies Abroad.

Academic Visits

6/2021 (2 weeks): Collegio Carlo Alberto.

5/2019 – 6/2019: Department of Economics, Lund University.

9/2014 – 6/2015: Department of Economics, New York University.

Conference and Seminar Presentations

*Last 5 years, * invited*

2022: Central Bank of Ireland*, NUI Galway*, UCD School of Economics Seminar, London School of Economics*, ESA Special Meeting.

2021: UCD Behavioural Science & Policy Seminar, EERA JP Energy Systems Integration Webinar*, UCD School of Economics Seminar, ESA Global Meeting, ECPR Joint Session on Emotions and Political Attitudes in the Context of COVID-19, Irish Economic Association Annual Conference, London School of Economics Behavioural Science & Covid-19 Working Group Seminar*.

2020: IBSPN Annual Economics and Psychology Conference, UCD School of Economics Seminar, UCD Behavioural Science & Policy Seminar, UCD Behavioural Science Workshop on “The Economics of Self-Control”, UCD School of Psychology Seminar*, ESA Global Meeting, ESA Junior Faculty Webinar.

2019: UCD School of Economics Seminar (Dublin), UCD Behavioural Science & Policy Seminar (Dublin), IAREP/SABE Conference (Dublin), SABE ECR Workshop (Dublin), CNEE Workshop (Copenhagen), Masaryk University Economics Seminar (Brno)*, University College Dublin*.

2018: Seminar on Behavioural Economics for Energy Use and Climate Change (Lund), National Conference in Economics Workshop for Junior Female Researchers (Växjö), CNEE Workshop (Copenhagen), Arne Ryde Host Seminar (Lund).

Teaching

Course Coordinator/Lecturer

Behavioural Economics: Policy Applications, Spring 2022, Spring 2021.

Advanced Microeconomics, Spring 2022, Spring 2021, Spring 2020.

Decision Theory, Spring 2022, Spring 2021, Spring 2020.

Experiments in Economics, Fall 2021, Fall 2020.

Fundamentals of Economics and Economic Valuation of Environmental Change, Fall 2018.

Economic Valuation of Environmental Change, Fall 2018.

Teaching/Lab Assistant

Advanced Microeconomic Analysis, Fall 2016, Fall 2015.

Economic and Financial Decision Making, Fall 2016, Fall 2015, Fall 2013.

Mathematical Methods – Dynamic Optimization, Fall 2013.

Intermediate Microeconomics, Fall 2010.

Introductory Macroeconomics, Spring 2009.

Introductory Microeconomics, Fall 2009.

Business and Economic Statistics B, Spring 2009.

Business and Economic Statistics A, Spring 2009, Fall 2009.

Other

Supervision: 5 MSc theses, 3 BSc theses, 3 Research Assistants.

PhD Committee: 2 PhD students.

Qualification: Learning and Teaching in Higher Education, Spring 2016.

Award: Students as Partners Development Award, UCD College of Social Sciences and Law, 2019.

Academic Services

Refereeing

American Political Science Review, The Economic Journal, Journal of Behavioral and Experimental Economics, Journal of Economic Behavior & Organization, New Ideas in Psychology.

Seminar/workshop organization

2022: Co-organizer, UCD School of Economics research seminars; Organizer, UCD Behavioural Science Workshop on “Online Social Influences”.

2021: Co-organizer, UCD School of Economics research seminars; Co-chair, ECPR Joint Sessions Workshop on “Emotions and Political Attitudes in the Context of COVID-19”.

2020: Co-organizer, UCD PhD Conference in Behavioural Science and Policy; Co-organizer, UCD School of Economics research seminars.

2019: Co-organizer, UCD School of Economics research seminars; Co-organizer, panel discussion on “Where are all the female economists?”.

2018: Organizing Committee, public seminar on “Behavioural Economics for Energy Use and Climate Change”.

2016: Secretary to the Organizing Committee, Arne Ryde Workshop on “Identity, Image and Economic Behavior”.

Committees

2022: UCD School of Economics PhD Viva (Chair), UCD School of Politics and International Relations Quantitative and Computational Social Science PhD Programme Committee, UCD School of Economics Ethics Committee, UCD School of Economics Behavioural Committee.

2021: UCD School of Psychology Ethics Committee, UCD School of Economics PhD Transfer Seminar (Examiner), UCD School of Economics Ethics Committee, UCD School of Economics Behavioural Committee.

2020: UCD School of Economics PhD Viva (Chair), UCD Behavioural Science & Policy Group Postdoc Hiring Interview Panel, UCD School of Economics PhD Transfer Seminar (Examiner), UCD School of Economics Ethics Committee, UCD School of Economics Behavioural Committee, UCD College of Social Sciences and Law Equality Diversity and Inclusion Committee.

2019: UCD College of Social Sciences and Law Equality Diversity and Inclusion Committee.

Additional Information

Citizenship: Australian.

Languages: English (fluent), French (basic), Indonesian (native), Italian (basic), Swedish (proficient).

Computer Skills: L^AT_EX, Microsoft Office, oTree, Python, Qualtrics, R, Stata, z-Tree.

Last updated: February 2022