# **Marta Kozakiewicz**

# **University of Bonn**

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#### **Contact Information**

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53113 Bonn, Germany Nationality: Polish

# **Research and Teaching Fields**

**Primary**: Behavioral Economics, Experimental Economics

**Secondary**: Microeconomic Theory

#### Education

Since 2014 University of Bonn

Ph.D. candidate in Economics

Expected Completion Date: June 2021

Committee: Lorenz Götte, Florian Zimmermann, Thomas Dohmen

2008 - 2014 Warsaw School of Economics

B.Sc. and M.Sc., Quantitative Methods in Economics and Information Systems

#### References

Lorenz Götte Florian Zimmermann

Professor, the University of Bonn lorenz.goette@uni-bonn.de florian.zimmermann@briq-institute.org
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#### **Thomas Dohmen**

Professor, the University of Bonn t.dohmen@uni-bonn.de Tel: +49 228 73-9303

## **Teaching Experience**

2019, 2020 Introduction to Behavioral Economics (lecturer, undergraduate)

2018 Research Module in Management and Applied Microeconomics (TA, graduate)

#### **Grants and Honors**

2020-present Research fellowship, Young ECONtribute Program
 2020 8568 EUR research funding for the project

"Estimating Belief-Based Utility Using Experimental Data",

Collaborative Research Center (CRC) TR 224

2018 - 2020 Research fellowship, Collaborative Research Center (CRC) TR 224

2018 6100 EUR research funding for the project

"Misguided Learning: The Underlying Mechanisms",

Collaborative Research Center (CRC) TR 224 through project A01

2017 6000 EUR research funding for the project
"Experimental Evidence on Misguided Learning",
Institute for Applied Microeconomics, University of Bonn
2015 - 2018 Doctoral scholarship, German Academic Research Service (DAAD)
2014 - 2015 Doctoral scholarship, German Research Foundation (DFG)

## **Job Market Paper**

#### **Belief-Based Utility and Signal Interpretation**

People tend to overestimate their abilities and chances of success, even though inaccurate beliefs lead to costly mistakes. How can these beliefs persist in an environment with frequent feedback? I propose a new test of the hypothesis that people interpret favorable feedback to be more informative. Using experimental data, I provide the first causal evidence that the utility from beliefs affects one's perception of signal informativeness. To establish causality, I adopt a matching estimator approach and construct a counterfactual outcome of a subject who observes the same signal, but the signal is not affecting his belief-based utility. I find a strong and significant effect: subjects interpret favorable signals to be more informative due to changes in belief-based utility. The results cast a new light on the origins of overconfidence and illuminate mechanisms that perpetuate it in the face of feedback.

# **Research Papers**

# **Experimental Evidence on Misguided Learning (with Lorenz Götte)**

We test experimentally the theory of misguided learning formulated by Heidhues et al. (2018). The model predicts the behavior of an agent who has a biased perception of his ability and is learning about an unknown, decision-relevant parameter. We use a novel experimental design to demonstrate that the learning process of an overconfident agent differs significantly from that of an unbiased agent. In a dynamic setting, the overconfident agent repeatedly takes suboptimal actions, misinterprets the output and forms erroneous beliefs about the unknown parameter. We provide the first empirical evidence that giving a biased agent the opportunity to experiment and acquire new information is not only ineffective, but in some cases counterproductive.

**Does the world get crazier or is it just me? Learning about ability and an external parameter** (with. Lorenz Götte)

## Estimating Belief-Based Utility Using Experimental Data

### **Skills**

**Programming:** Proficiency in Matlab, Stata, and zTree

**Languages**: Polish (native), English (fluent), German (basic)

## **Seminar and Conference Presentations**

Autumn 2019 ESA European Meeting of the Economic Science Association, Dijon, France.

Summer 2018 Bonn Applied Micro Workshop, Bonn, Germany.