Mikhail S. Spektor

Assistant professor, Department of Economics and Business, Universitat Pompeu Fabra

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METRICS

- **8 peer-reviewed publications**
- **119 citations**
- **h-index: 5**
- **i10-index: 5**

RESEARCH INTERESTS

- **Decisions under risk and uncertainty**
- **Learning and decision making**
- **Context-dependent preferences**
- **Cognitive modeling**

EDUCATION

Dr. phil.

Faculty of Psychology, University of Basel

📅 Basel, Switzerland   ⚲ Oct 2014–Apr 2018

- Ph.D. program "Social, Economic, and Decision Psychology".
- Thesis: *Determinants of the context dependency of choices*
- Thesis supervisors: Jörg Rieskamp and Sebastian Gluth
- Final grade: *Summa cum laude* (corresponds to a 6 on a 1–6 scale; 6 = best)

M.Sc. Psychology

Heidelberg University

📅 Heidelberg, Germany   ⚲ Aug 2012–Sep 2014

- Thesis: *The effect of credibility on donation behavior*
- Thesis supervisors: Andreas Voss and Israel Waichman
- Final grade: 1.0 (on a 1–6 scale; 1 = best)

B.Sc. Psychology

Heidelberg University

📅 Heidelberg, Germany   ⚲ Aug 2009–Jul 2012

- Thesis: *Measuring intelligence and its components using stochastic diffusion models*
- Thesis supervisors: Andreas Voss and Dirk Hagemann
- Final grade: 1.1 (on a 1–6 scale; 1 = best)

PROFESSIONAL POSITIONS

Assistant professor
Department of Economics and Business, Universitat Pompeu Fabra

Barcelona, Spain   since Sep 2019

Affiliated professor
Barcelona Graduate School of Economics

Barcelona, Spain   since Sep 2019

Research fellow
Department of Psychology , University of Freiburg

Freiburg, Germany   Jan 2018–Sep 2019

Visiting lecturer
Faculty of Psychology, University of Basel

Basel, Switzerland   Aug 2018–Jan 2019

Research assistant
Faculty of Psychology, University of Basel

Basel, Switzerland   Oct 2014–Dec 2017

TEACHING

Psychology and business
Universitat Pompeu Fabra

Barcelona, Spain   2021

Lecture and seminar for undergraduate students (5 ECTS)

Learning objectives: understanding and improving the decision-making process

Topics covered: heuristics and biases, attention and perception, emotions, influence and group decision making, negotiation

Click here for the syllabus

Microeconomics II
Universitat Pompeu Fabra

Barcelona, Spain   2020, 2021

Lecture for undergraduate students (5 ECTS)

Learning objectives: thinking like an economist and application of theoretical concepts

Topics covered: general equilibrium, welfare economics, monopoly, oligopoly, externalities and public goods

Click here for the syllabus

Behavioral decision making I: Attention, experience, and influence
Universitat Pompeu Fabra

📅 Barcelona, Spain   📍 2020, 2021

Seminar for graduate students (6 ECTS; Taught 50/50 with Gaël Le Mens)

Learning objectives: basic understanding and application of behavioral decision-making theories and models

Topics covered: information search in decisions under uncertainty, experience-based decisions in changing environments, multi-attribute multi-alternative context effects, decision making as a sequential-sampling process, attentional processes involved in decision making

Click here for the syllabus

Data collection, evaluation, and modeling
University of Freiburg

📅 Freiburg, Germany   📍 2019

Seminar for graduate students (4 ECTS)

Learning objectives: basic understanding and application of statistical and cognitive modeling

Topics covered: probability theory, likelihood principle, parameter estimation, model comparison, evidence-accumulation models, signal detection theory, multinomial processing trees, decision-making models, reinforcement learning, Bayesian hypothesis testing and parameter estimation, basics of `Stan`

Click here for more information on the course-description website

Cognitive modeling: Concepts and applications
University of Basel

📅 Basel, Switzerland   📍 2019

Seminar for graduate students (2 ECTS)

Learning objectives: basic understanding and application of cognitive modeling

Topics covered: probability theory, statistical vs. cognitive models, model development, parameter estimation, model comparison, decision-making models, reinforcement learning, Bayesian parameter estimation

Click here for more information on the course-description website

Experimental project seminar
University of Basel

📅 Basel, Switzerland   📍 2015, 2016, 2017

Supervision of small, one-year long research projects in groups of four undergraduate students (8 ECTS)

Learning objectives: conducting literature research, developing hypotheses, collecting and analyzing data, writing research papers, and presenting the results as a scientific talk or poster

Topics covered: emotions and decision making, learning and decision making, domain-specific risk taking, context-dependent preferences, social learning

Click here for more information on the course-description website

SUPERVISION AND ADVISING

Ph.D. supervision

Evangelia Spantidaki Kyriazi (2020–ongoing; together with Larbi Aloui)

Doctoral dissertation defense committee

Daniel Sánchez Moscona (2020)   "Essays on behavioral economics"

Thomas Woiczyk (2020)   "Categories and levels of aggregation: Essays on judgment and decision making"

Doctoral dissertation proposal committee

Sergio Pirla Lopez (2020)   "Emotions and decision making"

Master's and bachelor's theses

Hannah Seidler (2019)   "Does information search affect the decision process?
An investigation of the accentuation effect"

Vanessa Kaiser (2019)   "Learning strategies in multi-stage decisions"

Ulrich Lösener (2019)   "Do purely spatial, non-visual relations exist?"

ADMINISTRATION, SERVICE TO PROFESSION, AND OTHER

Conference and workshop organization

EADM Summer School: "Learning and decision making" *(postponed due to COVID-19)*

📍 Barcelona, Spain   📅 2022

JDMx meeting for early-career researchers

📍 Basel, Switzerland   📅 08–11 Jun 2016

Invited symposia

Cognitive modeling in computer science and psychology: Bridging the gap

📍 Symposium conducted at the KogWis2018, Darmstadt, Germany   📅 05 Sep 2018

Ad-hoc reviewer

Journal of Experimental Psychology: General
Journal of Experimental Psychology: Learning, Memory, and Cognition
Transportation Research Part B
Computational Brain & Behavior
Frontiers in Psychology
PeerJ
PLOS Computational Biology
PLOS One

Other

Liaison lecturer for the **Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Freedom**

Scientific head of the **Digital Study**

Counsel at legal tech start-up **LEX superior GmbH**

Data analyst of the interactive web documentary **51 Sprints**

GRANTS, AWARDS, AND FELLOWSHIPS

Barcelona GSE Seed Grant
6'000 €   2021

Juan de la Cierva fellowship
50'000 €   2021–2022

Consortium for Advanced Studies Abroad fellowship *(postponed due to COVID-19)*
                                                                           2022

Fernandes fellowship *(postponed due to COVID-19)*
                                                                           2022

Co-applicant of *Fundación BBVA 2019: Economía y Sociedad digital* grant
73'988 €   2020–2021

Co-applicant of *Ministry of Science, Innovation and Universities: Proyectos I+D+i 2019* grant
84'700 €   2020–2022

Steven Karger prize (award of the Faculty of Psychology, University of Basel)
                                                                           2019

Conference travel award of the *Society for NeuroEconomics*
                                                                           2019

Conference travel grant of the *Swiss Academy of Humanities and Social Sciences*
                                                                           2017

Conference participation award (*MathPsych/ICCM*)
                                                                           2017

Conference participation award (*International Meeting of the Psychonomic Society*)
                                                                           2016

Conference travel grant of the *Swiss Academy of Humanities and Social Sciences*
                                                                           2015

Scholarship for pre-doctoral studies (Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Freedom)
                                                                           2009–2014

PUBLICATIONS AND TALKS

📄 Peer-reviewed articles

2021   8   Voormann, A., **Spektor, M. S.**, & Klauer, K. C. The simultaneous recognition of multiple words: A process analysis. *Memory & Cognition*. doi:10.3758/s13421-020-01082-w

       7   **Spektor, M. S.**, & Wulff, D. U. Myopia drives reckless behavior in response to over-taxation. *Judgment and Decision Making*, 16(1), 114–130.

2020   6   Kraemer, P., Fontanesi, L., **Spektor, M. S.**, & Gluth, S. Response time models separate single- and dual-process accounts of memory-based decisions. *Psychonomic Bulletin & Review*. doi:10.3758/s13423-020-01794-9

2019   5   Fontanesi, L., Gluth, S., **Spektor, M. S.**, & Rieskamp, J. A reinforcement learning diffusion decision model for value-based decisions. *Psychonomic Bulletin & Review*, 26(4), 1099–1121. doi:10.3758/s13423-018-1554-2

       4   **Spektor, M. S.**, Gluth, S., Fontanesi, L., & Rieskamp, J. How similarity between choice options affects decisions from experience: The accentuation of differences model. *Psychological Review*, 126(1), 52–88. doi:10.1037/rev0000122

2018   3   Gluth, S.*, **Spektor, M. S.***, & Rieskamp, J. Value-based attentional capture affects multi-alternative decision making. *eLife*, 7, 1–36. doi:10.7554/eLife.39659

       2   **Spektor, M. S.**, Kellen, D., & Hotaling, J. M. When the good looks bad: An experimental exploration of the repulsion effect. *Psychological Science*, 29(8), 1309–1320. doi:10.1177/0956797618779041

       1   **Spektor, M. S.**, & Kellen, D. The relative merit of empirical priors in non-identifiable and sloppy models: Applications to models of learning and decision making. *Psychonomic Bulletin & Review*, 25(6), 2047–2068. doi:10.3758/s13423-018-1446-5

📄 Manuscripts in preparation or submitted for publication

Submitted   6   **Spektor, M. S.**, Bhatia, S., & Gluth, S. The elusiveness of context effects in decision making.

       5   **Spektor, M. S.**, Kellen, D., & Klauer, K. C. The repulsion effect in preferential choice and its relation to perceptual choice. *Preprint available on PsyArXiv*: doi:10.31234/osf.io/hmzsx

       4   **Spektor, M. S.**, & Seidler, H. Irrelevant outcomes lead to violations of economic rationality.

In preparation   3   **Spektor, M. S.***, Gluth, S.*, & Rieskamp, J. Saliency distorts reward processing during reinforcement learning.

       2   **Spektor, M. S.***, & Wulff, D. U. Strategic search in decisions from experience.

       1   Kellen, D.*, **Spektor, M. S.***, Rieskamp, J., & Klauer, K. C. Context dependency of loss aversion.

📄 Other publications

2020   1   **Spektor, M. S.**, & Yuan, T. Digitalisierung in der Juristenausbildung. *Neue Juristische Wochenschrift*, 15, 52–88.

⚇ Invited talks

2020   6   **Spektor, M. S.** & Wulff, D. U. (2020, July). *Strategic information search in decisions from experience*. Virtual lab meeting at the Department of Psychology, University of Warwick, UK.

2019   5   **Spektor, M. S.** (2019, June). *Determinants of the context dependency of choices.* Dissertation competition of the Cognitive Psychology Division of the German Society for Psychology. Willebadessen, Germany.

2018   4   **Spektor, M. S.** (2018, December). *Violations of normative decision theory in experience-based decisions*. Research seminar at the Department of Economics.

        3   **Spektor, M. S.***, Gluth, S.* & Rieskamp, J. (2018, September). Implementing value-based attentional capture in a computational process model of cognition. In R. Albrecht & M. S. Spektor (Chairs), *Cognitive Modeling in Computer Science and Psychology: Bridging the Gap*. Symposium conducted at the KogWis 2018. Darmstadt, Germany.

        2   **Spektor, M. S.** & Wulff, D. U. (2018, March). Information search in decisions from experience. In H. Singmann & T. Pachur (Chairs), *Cognitive Models in Judgment and Decision Making*. Symposium conducted at the Tagung experimentell arbeitender Psychologen. Marburg, Germany.

2016   1   **Spektor, M. S.**, Gluth, S., Fontanesi, L. & Rieskamp, J. (2016, March). Independence of irrelevant alternatives in decisions from experience: A challenge for reinforcement learning models. In D. Kellen, H. Singmann & T. Pachur (Chairs), *Cognitive Modeling in Memory and Decision Making*. Symposium conducted at the Tagung experimentell arbeitender Psychologen. Heidelberg, Germany.

⚇ Conference talks

2020   7   **Spektor, M. S.**, Kellen, D. & Klauer, K. C. (2020, October). *The repulsion effect in preferential choice*. Virtual Process Tracing Conference 2020.

2019   6   **Spektor, M. S.***, Gluth, S.* & Rieskamp, J. (2019, October). *Violations of economic rationality in reinforcement learning are driven by a saliency-dependent reward-prediction-error signal in the ventral striatum*. Poster spotlight at the Annual Meeting of the Society for NeuroEconomics. Dublin, Ireland.

2017   5   **Spektor, M. S.**, Kellen, D. & Hotaling, J. M. (2017, August). *When the good looks bad: First experimental evidence for the repulsion effect*. Subjective Probability, Utility,

        4   **Spektor, M. S.** & Kellen, D. (2017, July). *You can't make a silk purse of a sow's ear*: On the relative merit of empirical priors in reinforcement learning models. Annual Meeting of the Society for Mathematical Psychology. Coventry, U.K.

        3   **Spektor, M. S.***, Gluth, S.* & Rieskamp, J. (2017, March). *Value-based attentional capture impairs trinary choice*. Tagung experimentell arbeitender Psychologen. Dresden, Germany.

2016   2   **Spektor, M. S.**, Gluth, S., Fontanesi, L. & Rieskamp, J. (2016, August). *Independence of irrelevant alternatives in decisions from experience: A challengefor reinforcement learning models*. Poster spotlight at the Annual Meeting of the Society for NeuroEconomics. Berlin, Germany.

        1   **Spektor, M. S.***, Kellen, D.* & Rieskamp, J. (2016, April). *Context dependency of loss aversion in choice*. The Nature of Preferences and their Relation to Choice. Potsdam, Germany.

*Equal contribution