

Raisa Sherif

Department of Public Economics
Max Planck Institute for Tax Law and Public Finance
Marshallplatz 1, Munich 80539, Germany

Email: raisas.sherif@tax.mpg.de
Phone: +49 89 24246-5257
Website: raisasherif.com

Academic appointment

Senior Research Fellow (Post-Doc), since 2021
Max Planck Institute for Tax Law and Public Finance, Munich

Education

Ph.D. Economics, 2021
Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität Munich and the Munich Graduate School of Economics
Max Planck Institute for Tax Law and Public Finance

Integrated Masters in Economics, 2009-2014
Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IIT Madras)

Job Market Paper

Are pro-environment behaviours substitutes or complements? Evidence from the field, 2021, Paper available at SSRN 3799970 (submitted)

Abstract - This paper uses a field experiment in India to study how interventions designed to increase one pro-environment activity, namely, recycling single-use plastic carry bags, spill over to other pro-environment activities. I show using lab and field experiments combined with survey data that (i) providing information on the need to recycle does not change recycling behaviour, whereas (ii) providing incentives along with the information leads to higher recycling. There is a positive spillover from the incentive treatment to other pro-environment activities. The positive spillover is observed among those in the treatment who responds to the incentives and change recycling behaviour as well as those who do not, indicating the presence of positive spillovers even if the target behaviour is unaffected. This evidence indicates complementarities among pro-environment behaviours and suggests that interventions may have unaccounted positive effects on non-target environment behaviours.

References

Kai Konrad
Max Planck Institute
University of Munich
+49 89 24246 5250
kai.konrad@tax.mpg.de

Nishith Prakash
Department of Economics
University of Connecticut
+1 (832) 474 6341
nishith.prakash@uconn.edu

Florian Englmaier
Department of Economics
University of Munich
+49 89 2180 5642
florian.englmaier@econ.lmu.de

Lekha Chakraborty
Department of Economics
National Institute of Public Finance and Policy
+91 96500 12227
lekha.chakraborty@nipfp.org.in

Publications

[Sanctioning, selection, and pivotality in voting: theory and experimental results](#), with Kai A Konrad, *Constitutional Political Economy*, 2019, 30(3), 330-357

Work in progress

[Information campaigns, environment norms, and behaviour: Evidence from the field](#), 2021, *Pre-registered trial available at American Economic Association Social Science Registry* 7439

Abstract - Information campaigns that aim to encourage pro-environment activities are a widely popular policy instrument. In addition to closing the information gap related to target behaviours, such interventions can potentially change the beliefs that individuals hold about the appropriateness of these behaviours. This is particularly likely in the context of environment behaviours because of the normative nature of interventions, where a 'correct' behaviour is often encouraged. We look at whether individuals respond to information campaigns in the environmental domain because of their informational value or because they expect the campaign to change the social norm around these behaviours, and want to adhere to these new norms. We aim to separately identify these two channels through a field experiment.

[Wins and losses in collective actions](#), with Biljana Meiske, 2021, *Pre-registered trial available at American Economic Association Social Science Registry* 7474

Abstract - Global warming, deforestation, destruction of wildlife, etc., all represent problems which require coordination on a global level to be successfully resolved. At the same time, they also have their representation on a smaller scale (e.g. on a local level). We study, using a field experiment, whether the experience of participation in a small-scale collective action affects the willingness to contribute in a related but larger collective action. Particularly, we are interested in the motivational and demotivational effects of having achieved a "small win" or having failed to do so, on scaling-up the collective effort, and the relative magnitude of these effects. Furthermore, we investigate whether success (failure) in the smaller scale collective action has heterogeneous effects on participants with different initial propensity to contribute.

[Shame or Spirituality? What Works in Improving Waste Management in Urban India](#), with Ahana Basistha, Vishal Narayan, Nishith Prakash

Abstract - Poor urban waste management has severe negative effects on health and economic outcomes. We conduct a randomized control trial among households in the Patna Municipal Corporation in Bihar, India to examine the effects of behavioural interventions on urban waste segregation. We test the impact of combining religious messaging with shame-based intervention on household segregation levels. By targeting the messages to different members of the household, we additionally explore the differences in intervention effectiveness that can potentially arise from "tailoring" the program to the most relevant decision maker.

[Efficiency versus visibility trade-off in pro-environment behaviours](#), with Sven Simon

Abstract - Individuals frequently engage in pro-environment behaviours that are not necessarily the most efficient in terms of environmental impact per unit of cost incurred. One potential reason for engaging in PEBs of lower efficiency is a preference for visibility. Individuals with a preference for being perceived as 'green' could choose a PEB providing higher visibility over a more efficient but less visible one. We conduct a large-scale online experiment in Germany to examine whether individuals deliberately trade-off between visibility and efficiency in pro-environmental behaviours.

Teaching experience

International Public Economics, TA (Graduate class), Winter Semester 2017, Rating: 4.8/5
University of Munich

Conferences and workshops

2022 Experimental Sciences Association World Meeting, Boston, Lindau Nobel Laureate Meeting in Economics

2021 Verein für Socialpolitik (German Economic Association), Virtual Annual Meeting [Virtual], ESA Global Online Around-the-Clock Meetings [Virtual], CRC Summer School 2021: Science-Based Policy Advice [Virtual], 9th Mannheim Conference on Energy and the Environment [Virtual]

2020 Micro Workshop, Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität, Munich [Virtual], Behavioral Research in Economics Workshop, India [Virtual]

2018 ESA World Meeting, Berlin, IIPF Annual Congress, Tampere , Public Economic Theory Conference, Hanoi, International Meeting on Experimental and Behavioral Social Sciences (IMEBESS), Florence, European Public Choice Society conference, Rome, Micro Workshop, Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität, Munich, Scientific Advisory Board Meeting 2018, MPI for Tax Law and Public Finance, Munich, XXVIII. Tax Day, Max Planck Institute for Tax Law and Public Finance, Munich

2017 Workshop - Public Finance and Political Economy V, Freien Universität Berlin, Development Economics Workshop, Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität, Munich, Summer School in Experimental Economics, Tinbergen Institute, Amsterdam

Scholarships and awards

Invitee to the 7th Lindau Nobel Laureate Meeting in Economic Sciences, 2022

Institute Award for the best academic record in Masters in Economics, IIT Madras, 2014

Working Internships in Science and Engineering scholarship by the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), 2013

Software

STATA, R, \LaTeX , zTree, OTree, Qualtrics

Services

Co-founder at [Lindau Mentor Hub](#), a digital platform that connects mentors and mentees in science and academia. Currently, in development, in collaboration with the Lindau Nobel Laureate Meetings.

Research Consultant, Green Kerala Mission, Govt of Kerala, India (2018-2020)

Co-host of [Max Planck Economics Podcast](#), conversations with economists and political scientists.

Equal Opportunities Officer, MPI for Tax Law and Public Finance (since Oct 2020)

Analyst, Investment Banking, Barclays Bank PLC (2014-15)

Contributor, *Malayala Manorama* (daily newspaper in *Malayalam* language)