

Yang ZHONG

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Fields of Interest Primary fields: Experimental Microeconomics, Behavioral Economics
Secondary fields: Applied Microeconomics, Organizational economics

Education

University of Amsterdam PhD Economics Advisors: Thomas Buser, Hessel Oosterbeek	Sept 2020 - Aug 2025 (expected)
Lund University Research visit Host: Roel van Veldhuizen	Jan 2023 - Mar 2023
University of Amsterdam & Tinbergen Institute MPhil Economics	Sept 2018 - Jun 2020
University of Amsterdam Master Finance	Sept 2017 - Jun 2018
University of Amsterdam Bachelor Economics and Business	Sept 2014 - Mar 2017

Job Market Paper

Working Under Distractions
Abstract: Distractions are common in the modern workplace with its noisy open-plan offices and constant digital interruptions. I use an incentivized laboratory experiment to study the effects of auditory and task-switching distractions on two important worker outcomes: performance and mental well-being. I also elicit individual's willingness to pay to avoid distractions. Further, I elicit people's attitudes towards working under distractions both in the lab and in a representative Dutch survey panel. I obtain three main results. First, I find that while working under distractions does not have a strong impact on performance in the lab, both types of distraction are detrimental to individuals' self-reported mental well-being. Second, the heterogeneity in the impact on mental well-being can be partially captured by simple survey questions on attitudes towards working under distractions. These attitude questions are also strongly correlated with income and job satisfaction in the survey data. Lastly, I find that individuals are willing to pay a positive amount to avoid working under distractions on average and this willingness to pay is negatively correlated with the change in mental well-being, but not in performance while working under distractions.

Publications

Time Pressure Preferences
Management Science, forthcoming
with Thomas Buser and Roel van Veldhuizen

Conferences and Workshops

2024 Preferences, Traits, and Skills workshop (Amsterdam), ESA Asia (Singapore), IMEBESS (Riga), Young Economists' Meeting (Brno), Workshop on Social Economy for Young Economists (Bologna), ESA Europe (Helsinki), Nordic

	Conference in Behavioral and Experimental Economics (Copenhagen, scheduled)	
	2023 NEK Brown Bag (Lund), PhD lunch seminar (Copenhagen), BEE Brown Bag Seminar (Gothenburg)	
	2022 ESA Asia (virtual), Young Economists' Meeting (Brno), M-BEES (Maastricht), ESA World (Boston), ASFEE (Lyon, poster), ESA Europe (Bologna)	
	2021 TIBER Symposium (Tilburg)	
Summer Schools	1st Summer School in Experimental and Behavioral Economics, by the European Economic Review (Crete)	Aug 2020
Scholarships	Full Graduate Scholarship Tinbergen Institute	2018-2019
Teaching Experiences	University of Amsterdam Teaching Assistant, Microeconomics I (BSc Economics) Teaching Assistant, Microeconomics II (BSc Economics) Teaching Assistant, Economics of Markets and Organisations (BSc Economics) Thesis supervisor, BSc Organizational Economics	2020 - present
	Tinbergen Institute Teaching Assistant, Microeconomics IV (MPhil Economics)	2020
Other Activities	University of Amsterdam Co-organizer of the internal Work in Progress seminars Co-organizer of the Preferences, Traits, and Skills workshop	2022 - present 2024
Skills and other information	Programming: Stata, oTree, Python, Javascript, L ^A T _E X Language: Chinese (native), English (fluent), Dutch (intermediate) Nationality: Dutch	