

# Job Market Presentations Workshop

## Program

23 November 2018

- **12:00-12:30** Bernardo García Pola, *Do People Minimize Regret in Strategic Situations? A level-k Comparison*

Abstract: Regret minimization and level-k reasoning have been proposed as alternative models for rationalizing non-equilibrium behavior in games. We provide a theoretical and experimental analysis of the relationship between these two models, a relationship that has been neglected by economists. Both theories predict the same behavior in a surprisingly large number of experimentally tested games. We identify conditions under which this happens, and use them to design a series of games to separate regret minimization from level-k thinking. The experimental test of these games and data from Costa-Gomes and Crawford (2006) reveal that virtually no one systematically minimizes regret, casting doubt on regret minimization as a relevant explanation of behavior in strategic situations.

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- **12:30-13:00** Agurtzane Lekuona, *Re-examining the inequality of opportunity in educational achievements in some European countries: the role of family background, school characteristics and peer group effects*, with Casilda Lasso de la Vega and Susan Orbe

Abstract: This paper analyzes inequality in education in 20 European countries with data taken from the 2012 wave of the OECDs Program for International Student Assessment (PISA). We propose a model that incorporates circumstance and effort variables. Whereas the circumstance variables include family background, school characteristics and peer group performance, the effort variables account for factors related with students attitudes and motivation. Based on this model we first analyze the relative contributions of circumstances and efforts to overall education inequality, and then propose a measure of inequality of opportunity. As circumstances may affect achievements both directly and through efforts, the

measure that we propose captures their joint impact. The results show that Belgium, France, Germany, and Bulgaria get the highest levels for inequality of opportunity, whilst the lowest levels are for Nordic countries and for Spain and Ireland. The results also indicate, for instance, that peer groups are the greatest contributors to the inequalities in the selected countries, except in Nordic countries and in Spain and Ireland, countries with the lowest between-school variance and the lowest inequality of opportunity.

- **13:00-13:30** Izaskun Zuazu, *Graduates' opium? Cultural values, religiosity and gender segregation by field of study*

Abstract: This paper studies the relationship between cultural values and gender distribution across fields of study in higher education. I compute national, field and subfield-level gender segregation indices for a panel dataset of 26 OECD countries for 1998-2012. This panel dataset expands the focus of previous macro-level research by exploiting data on gender segregation in specific subfields of study. I consider two focal cultural traits: gender equality and religiosity, and control for potential segregation factors, such as labour market and educational institutions, and aggregate-level gender disparities in math performance and beliefs among young people. The estimates fail to associate gender equality measures with gender segregation in higher education. Religiosity is significantly negatively associated with lower gender segregation in higher education. However, gender gaps in math beliefs seem to be stronger predictors of national-level gender segregation. Field and subfield-level analyses reveal that religiosity is associated with less gender-segregated fields of education, science, and health, and specifically with the subfield of social services.

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