

# SFB-Newsletter

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## Gästeaktivitäten

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- ] Montag, 5.5.97     **Vortrag von John H Kagel**  
University of Pittsburg  
Thema: „Learning Generalizability“ (abstract folgt)  
🕒 18:15  
📎 0 48
- ] Montag, 26.5.97     **Vortrag von Prof. Giselle Umbhauer**  
Bureau d'economie theorique et applique, Universität Straßburg  
Thema: „Discrete evolutionary processes: Stationary probabilities,  
strategic asymmetries and learning schemes“ (abstract folgt)  
🕒 18:15  
📎 0 48
- ] Montag, 30.6.97     **Vortrag von Prof. Hans Joas**  
FU Berlin, z.Zt. New School, New York  
Thema und abstract folgen  
🕒 18:15  
📎 0 48
- ] Juni 1997     **Aufenthalt von Prof. Marc Olson,**  
derzeit Purdue University,  
Arbeitsgebiet: Experimentelle Spieltheorie.
- ] 25.8.-24.9.97     **Aufenthalt von Prof. Elke Weber** im Rahmen des  
Forschungsprojektes „Unsichere Präferenzen“.

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## Bisher stattgefundenene Vorträge

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] Dienstag, 25.2.97 **Vortrag von J.H. Köhler**

University of Cambridge

Thema: „Savings Decisions: Experimental and Simulation Evidence“

**Abstract:**

This paper addresses the question of savings behaviour in two ways: by means of an experiment and by numerical simulations of decision strategies for saving.

In the experiment, subjects took saving/consumption decisions under uncertainty and performed trial calculations to discover the results for different decisions. These trials revealed a rolling strategy for performing calculations - subjects performed trials throughout the experiment, looking only a few periods ahead. There was little evidence of trials to find the optimal strategy. Consumption was dependent on wealth and current income and subjects built up a stock of wealth over time.

The performance of such a rolling strategy was compared to the optimum for the income streams used in the experiment and, a little more generally, for a constant stopping probability or discount rate and a range of parameter values and rolling strategy ranges. For the parameter values used in the experiment, the rolling strategy was almost as effective as the optimal strategy. The more general simulation showed that for parameter values apart from high interest rate to discount rate ratios, the rolling strategy was virtually as effective as the optimum for the low levels of accumulated assets which are typical for the experiment.

The experiment provided evidence that people simplify savings decisions by restricting the amount of information considered: Looking ahead for a short span of time, rather than the whole lifetime. The simulation results demonstrate that people can use a rolling decision strategy to simplify savings problems - indeed it enables them to perform some form of logical calculation - while losing hardly any utility (as long as they are not rich!).

] Montag, 3.3.97 **Vortrag von Henk Aarts**

Eindhoven University of Technology

Thema: „Automaticity in Habitual Travel Mode Decisions“

**Abstract:**

Automaticity in goal-directed habitual decisions (travel mode choices) was investigated. It is proposed that, when behavior is habitual, instigation of a travel goal automatically activates a travel mode. Subjects were very briefly presented with travel destinations (e.g., university), and decided as quickly as possible whether a transport mode (bicycle) would be an option.

Decisions were made after planning relevant bike travel goals (i.e., forming implementation intentions), or after planning an unrelated activity. In a second experiment, subjects named a travel mode immediately after the presentation of a destination. Habitual travel mode decisions were either allowed, or not allowed, under conditions of full or divided (i.e., mental load) attention.

] Montag, 3.3.97 **Vortrag von Bas Verplanken**

University of Nijmegen

Thema: "Good Intentions, Bad Habits, and Effects of Forming Implementation Intentions on Healthy Eating"

**Abstract:**

Attitudes and intentions are traditionally considered as the unimportant antecedents of behavior. However, behavior is often challenged by motives or other driving forces that frustrate the accomplishment of goals which that particular behavior is aimed at. We investigated counterintentional habits as such a force in the domain of healthy eating. In addition, the formation of (pro-intentional) implementation intentions (Gollwitzer, 1993) was manipulated. The study thus focused on the joint effects of attitudes and intentions, counterintentional habits, and implementation intentions on the healthiness of eating during a five-days period.

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Besuchte Tagungen und Kongresse

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**] Ein kurzer Bericht über die Training and Mobility of Researchers (TMR)-Konferenz in Neapel vom 7-8. Februar 1997**

"Neapel sehen und sterben." Das ist wohl der erste Satz der jedem einfällt wenn von Neapel die Rede ist. Für das "Sehen" war wenig Zeit in der Stadt am Vesuv, da das Departement of Economics Universita' di Salerno ein volles Programm für den zweitägigen Workshop "Saving, Pensions, and Portfolio Choice" vorgelegt hat.

In malerischer Umgebung im Palazzo Serra di Cassano gab es Vorträge zu den Themen:

- Consumption and Saving
- Wealth Accumulation and Bequests
- Experimental Economics
- Portfolio Choice
- Privatizing Social Security,

von namhaften Wissenschaftlern aus Italien, den Niederlanden, Großbritannien, Frankreich, USA, Zypern und der Bundesrepublik. Von der Universität Mannheim haben Professor A. Börsch-Supan und R. Rodepeter teilgenommen.

Eine Teilnehmerliste sowie die vorgetragenen Papiere können bei R. Rodepeter angefordert werden. (email: ralf@pool.uni-mannheim.de)

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Tagungen, Kongresse

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**Die Unterlagen zu den nachfolgenden Tagungen können in der Geschäftsstelle des SFB eingesehen werden.**

**] ESEM 1997**

The 52nd European Meeting of the Econometric Society will be held from 26th to 30th August, 1997 in Toulouse.

Submission deadline for papers: March 17th, 1997.

### ] **EEA 97**

The 12th Annual Congress of the European Economic Association will be held from 31st August to 2nd September, 1997 in Toulouse.

Submission deadline for papers: March 1st, 1997.

] The Economic Science Laboratory at the University of Arizona will be holding a **Workshop on Experimental Economics** from 31st July to 6th August 1997. Faculty for the workshop will include leading professors in the field of experimental economics.

Submission deadline for papers: April 1st, 1997.

Further questions may be directed to Mary Caslin Ross, email: ross@econlab.arizona.edu

] The **30th Essex Summer School in Social Science Data Analysis and Collection** takes place from the 5th July - 15th August, 1997. The 10-12 courses focus on the needs of researchers at three levels of expertise. There are also workshops on the British Household Panel Survey Data and on Comparative European Data Resources.

Further details are available via <http://www.essex.ac.uk/social-science-methodology-school/> or email: sum\_sch@essex.ac.uk

## Sonstiges

### ] **Bursaries for Essex Summer School**

The European Centre for Analysis in the Social Science (ECASS) has up to 20 bursaries available for participation in the Essex Summer School in Social Science Data Analysis and Collection.

Further information is available via <http://www.irc.essex.ac.uk/ecass> or email: ecass@essex.ac.uk (and at the „Geschäftsstelle des SFB“).

## Personelles

### ] **Mitglieder**

In der Vorstandssitzung am 3.3.97 wurden folgende Mitglieder in den SFB aufgenommen:

Dipl.-Math. Michael Adam

Dr. Tilmann Betsch

Dipl.-Volksw. Karl-Martin Ehrhard

Prof. Dr. Martin Hellwig

Dr. Claudia Keser

Dr. Raimund Maurer

Dr. Daniel Probst