



NEWSLETTER

No. 9

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Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin
Collaborative Research Center 649
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REVIEW ABOUT CRC 649 EVENTS

22 – 23 August 2013

Workshop "Field Days 2013: Experiments Outside the Laboratory"

In August, the WZB research unit "Market Behavior" hosted the two-day conference "Field Days 2013: Experiments Outside the Laboratory", organized by Dietmar Fehr (WZB) and Steffen Altmann (IZA). Senior and junior researchers from around the world presented their field experiments and discussed how they can be used to evaluate policies and to inform our understanding of economic behavior.



Participants of the workshop

The questions approached were manifold: Does a financial incentive encourage workers to commit to a gym routine? Can eating habits be changed in schools to prevent bad habits developing later in adults? Who works harder, a worker who is given recognition for his work or his unacknowledged colleague? How are religious beliefs formed? The experimental environments included for example, hospitals in rural Pakistan, villages in Uganda,

primary schools or a gym of a Fortune-500 company. On the first day of the conference, the presentations dealt with how incentives affect habit formation, how a new information technology improves the monitoring of public sector employees and how the free distribution of health products influences individuals' price expectations. The second day discussed various ways of increasing savings rates, loan repayment or encouraging redress following the mis-selling of financial products. It continued with a field experiment using an apocalyptic prophecy to measure religious beliefs and with experiments measuring the impact of financial literacy training among high-school students and the impact of employee recognition on work effort.

Each presentation was commented on by an assigned discussant, followed by the general discussion. The large variety of questions addressed- and well thought-out experimental settings showed the vast range of what field experiments can be used for, and made the conference multifarious, lively, and highly interesting. About 50 people took part in the conference and debated not only on the presented work but also on field experiments as a tool to further advance our understanding of economic behavior. The conference was generously funded by the Volkswagen Foundation (VolkswagenStiftung) and the SFB 649. (DF)

26 – 27 August 2013

Mutual Fund Conference: "Recent Advances in Mutual Fund Research"

From 26 to 27 August 2013, the Institutes of Corporate Finance, Financial Economics and Microeconomic Theory hosted a two-day conference at Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin on recent advances in mutual fund research. In total 10 papers were presented followed by lively discussions. The conference attracted an international audience of over 40 participants mainly from North America, but also from Asia and Europe. The conference was sponsored by the Collaborative Research Centers SFB 649 "Economic Risk", SFB-TR15 "Governance and the Efficiency of Economic Systems", and the Society for Economics and Management at the Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin (WWG). (TA)



Participants of the conference

NEWS OF THE PROJECTS

Dorothea Kübler (A6) attended the Singapore Economic Review Conference 2013, from 6 to 8 August, in Singapore and gave a talk entitled "Centralized University Admissions with Quotas".

Ulrich Horst (A11) visited the Hausdorff Center for Mathematics from 22 July to 23 August 2013. While in Bonn he gave a talk on "Smooth solutions to portfolio liquidation problems with price-sensitive market impact" at the Workshop on Modelling Market Dynamics and Equilibrium.

Maria Grith (B1) successfully defended her Ph.D. thesis "Dynamics of Risk Attitudes" on 30 August 2013. Congratulations!

Wolfgang Härdle (B1) gave a talk on 13 August 2013 at the Risk Management Institute of National University of Singapore on "Risk Patterns and Correlated Brain Activities".

Franziska Schulz (C11) participated in the Focus Program on Commodities, Energy and Environmental Finance at the Fields Institute in Toronto from 5 to 30 August 2013. She gave a talk on "Forecasting Generalized Quantiles of Electricity Demand: A Functional Data Approach".

Zhiwei Shen (C11) presented his paper on "Can expert knowledge compensate for data scarcity in crop insurance pricing?" at 2013 AAEA & CAES Joint Annual Meeting, Washington.DC, from 4 to 6 August 2013.

Lars Winkelmann (C14) presented the joint paper with **Markus Bibinger (C12)** "ECB Monetary Policy Surprises: Identification through Cojumps in Interest Rates" at the Invited Speaker Seminar of the European Central Bank in Frankfurt on 5 July 2013 and on the annual meeting of the European Economic Association and the Econometric Society (EEA-ESEM) in Gothenburg from 26 to 30 August 2013.

GUESTS OF THE CRC 649

You find a summary about all guests here:
http://sfb649.wiwi.hu-berlin.de/fedc/guests_actual.php

Current Guests of the CRC 649 "Economic Risk":

07.01.2013 – **Biermann, Steffen**
 31.12.2013 Universität Duisburg-Essen

Project: *The accuracy of corporate risk valuation with a capital market theory valid model*

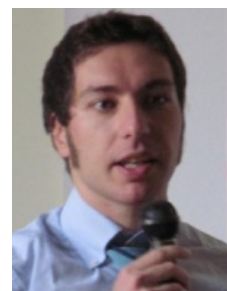
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01.08.2013 – **De Pretis, Francesco**
 30.09.2013 University of Modena and Reggio Emilia, Italy

Project: *Evaluating risk in pricing binary options through harmony*

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01.06.2013 – **Bierey, Martin**
 01.12.2013 ESCP Europe

Project: *Accounting Dissertation*

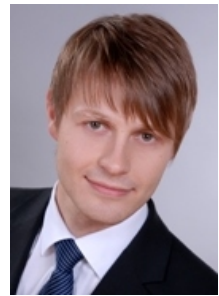
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03.06.2013 – **Braun, Steffen**
 03.09.2013 TU Darmstadt

Project: *Auditor switching among German listed firms – An empirical analysis of causes and consequences*

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16.07.2013 – **Schultz, Mario**
 15.10.2013 Europa-Universität-Viadrina

Project: Implizite Kapitalkosten

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01.08.2013 – **Panov, Maxim**
 31.12.2013 Moscow Institute of Physics and Technology

Project: *Robust Filter for Hidden Markov Models*

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19.08.2013 – **Crummenerl, Marc**
 02.09.2013 Universität Tübingen

Project: *The Risk of Low Volatility Stocks: A Theoretical Explanation for an Empirical Puzzle*

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18.03.2013 – **Dai, Xianhua**
 28.02.2014 Wuhan Institute of Technology

Project: *Nonparametric Techniques in Economics*

Spandauer Str. 1, room 312
 phone: 2093 5748



NEW DISCUSSION PAPERS

- 2013-036** **Christopher Boortz, Simon Jurkatis, Stephanie Kremer, Dieter Nautz**
 "Herding in financial markets: Bridging the gap between theory and evidence"
- 2013-037** **Wolfgang Karl Härdle, Dedy Dwi Prastyo**
 "Default Risk Calculation based on Predictor Selection for the Southeast Asian Industry"
- 2013-038** **Lars Winkelmann, Markus Bibinger, Tobias Linzert**
 "ECB monetary policy surprises: identification through cojumps in interest rates"
- 2013-039** **Camille Cornand, Frank Heinemann**
 "Limited higher order beliefs and the welfare effects of public information"

PUBLICATIONS

- Kübler, D., Beresford, A. R., Preibusch, S. (2013)**
 "Price versus privacy: an experiment into the competitive advantage of collecting less personal information", *Electronic Commerce Research*.
 DOI: 10.1007/s10660-013-9130-3
- Bettendorf, T., Chen, W. (2013)**
 "Are there bubbles in the Sterling-dollar exchange rate? New evidence from sequential ADF tests", *Economics Letters*, Volume 120, Issue 2, August 2013, Pages 350–353.
 DOI: 10.1016/j.econlet.2013.04.039
- Basteck, C., Daniëls T. R., Heinemann, F. (2013)**
 "Characterising equilibrium selection in global games strategic complementarities", *Journal of Economic Theory*.
 DOI: 10.1016/j.jet.2013.07.006
- Binzel, C., Fehr, D. (2013)**
 "Giving and Sorting Among Friends: Evidence from a Lab-in-the-Field Experiment", *Economics Letters*.
 DOI: 10.1016/j.econlet.2013.08.002
- Ensthaler, L., Giebe, T. (2013)**
 "A dynamic auction for multi-object procurement under a hard budget constraint", *Research Policy*.
 DOI: 10.1016/j.respol.2013.06.011

CRC STAFF

At this point the Collaborative Research Center 649 "Economic Risk" wants to present Jana Friedrichsen, staff member of project A6 "Strategic risk in experimental games".



Since July 2013 Jana Friedrichsen has been a researcher at the WZB in the research unit "Market Behavior" and at Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, Chair of Microeconomic Theory and its Applications. Before moving to Berlin, she studied at the Center for Doctoral Studies in Economics at the University of Mannheim, where she will in the coming months complete her PhD. Her interests lie in industrial organization and political economy and in particular on the consequences of social motivations in market interaction or political activism. In her thesis, Jana investigated how consumers' desire to appear as concerned with quality affects a producer's decisions

with respect to quality, price, and product differentiation. Related to that she has run a laboratory experiment to learn whether willingness-to-pay for Fairtrade chocolate is affected by image concerns. In her current research she is interested in persuasive advertising and political campaigning when consumers, respectively voters, care about network effects. (JF)

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

"Half of the American people have never read a newspaper. Half never voted for President. One hopes it is the same half."

Gore Vidal (1925-2012)

Please also note that the newsletter is published on the homepage of the CRC 649.

**The CRC 649 – Newsletter is published at the beginning of each month.
 Editorial deadline for the tenth Newsletter 2013 is 30.09.2013.**