



The Los Angeles Behavioral Economics Laboratory (**LABEL**) is a research center led by Dr. Isabelle Brocas and Dr. Juan Carrillo, dedicated to the study of decision-making and its implications on life outcomes and markets. For more information on **LABEL**, please visit our **website**.

## New research

### The contribution of environmental factors and traits to the development of tolerance to inequity

Are children tolerant to inequity? Do their attitudes depend on the source of inequity, social and cultural factors or traits? To answer those questions, we recruited a sample of 2,883 children and teenagers aged 5 to 18 in the United States and Spain. They all participated in a third party dictator game where they could influence the rewards of the winner and the loser of a competition. We explored three competition methods (talent, effort, and luck) and two methods to allocate rewards (taxation of the winner and subsidy to players). We found that participants were reluctant to tax the winner across all age groups resulting in more meritocratic allocations. In contrast, the subsidy scenario exhibited strong age-related effects, with ex-post fairness peaking during middle school and then declining. These trends were consistent across populations and across socioeconomic backgrounds, but meritocratic choices were more frequent when the source of inequity was talent. Choices were also affected by perceived performance, personality traits, and affective processes.



Brañas Garza P., I. Brocas and J. Carrillo, **Developmental Meritocracy**.

For more information about our scientific publications, please check **here**.

## New Report

### Mind the achievement gap

American education has long had an achievement gap that sees African-American, Latinx, and low-income students perform worse than their peers. Despite its potential importance in educating the public about this issue, the literature on the achievement gap can be confusing to those unfamiliar. This report aims to shed light on this issue by categorizing the literature intuitively, summarizing its findings, and using this knowledge to propose potential ways the government can reduce the achievement gap. Public knowledge of the achievement gap is essential to gathering the political willpower to address it. This paper aims to educate the public to help achieve this goal.



Rios U. and I. Brocas, "**Mind the (Achievement) Gap: How Discrimination Contributes to Educational Disparities**", LABEL report December 2023

For a full list of our LABEL reports, check **here**.

## Dissemination

Follow us on our **YouTube Channel**.

Check Isabelle's blog "**Biology, Development, and Behavior**" on Psychology Today

## LABEL Trainees Features



**Noble Leon** attends Lycée International de Los Angeles, and is interested in behavioral sciences and epigenetics.

*"Through the LABEL trainee program, I have gained skills that I wouldn't have obtained anywhere else. Through a balance of independence and guidance, engaging in a research project has allowed me to expand my knowledge in a field that I find fascinating. LABEL gives me the opportunity to pursue my interests while building skills that will work towards my career."*

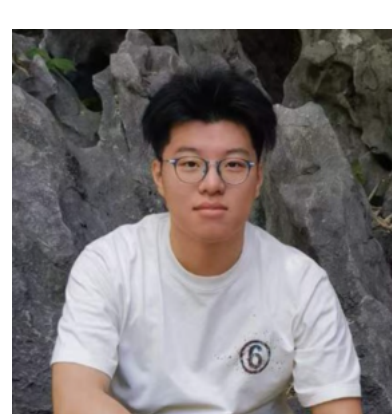
**Sophia Hurtado** studies at the IE University in Madrid, Spain, and is currently interested in researching intoxication and addiction policies in law enforcement interventions and the impact of nudges on public policy.

*"LABEL has provided me with the opportunity to participate in analyzing research studies that focus on decision-making for different topics. It has allowed me to put into practice what I have learned so far in my Behaviour and Social Science studies from a research perspective."*



## New to our USC team

We are welcoming five new members from USC: **Yao Lu** is a senior majoring in economics. **Yifu Liu** is a senior studying economics and mathematics. **Young Saghvi** is a junior majoring in economics. **Yujie Li** and **Xidi Zhang** are both in the MS AEE program. These lab members will be investigating how risk perception affects decision-making!



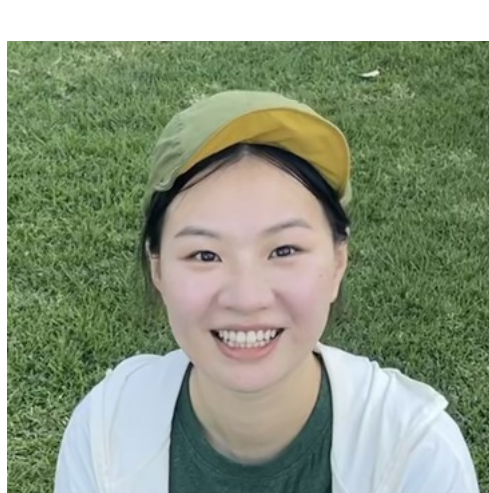
Yao



Young



Yifu



Yujie



Xidi

## Announcements



### Upcoming events

The LABEL Seminar Series can now be joined on zoom!

Register **here**

Check our current and future events **here**.

## Education at USC

LABEL disseminates knowledge regarding decision-making and the methods to study it. We sponsor **several courses and programs** for undergraduate, master and PhD students at USC, all designed for students who wish to explore careers in the Behavioral Sciences as consultants, researchers or policy makers.

## Training the next generation of students

The **Little Experimentalists Program** organizes events in schools to teach students how to think strategically and to inform parents and teachers about the development of cognition and decision-making.

The **LABEL Training Program** offers students (10th grade and up) the opportunity to participate in research activities in our group. Read about our trainees' experiences **here**. Our lab is currently accepting **applications** for academic year 2024-2025 (deadline is June 15).



## Participate in our studies

If you are an undergraduate **student** at USC, register **here**.

If you are a **parent living in Los Angeles** and would like your child to participate in our studies, register **here**.

If you are **living in Los Angeles** and are **18 and older** and would like to participate in our studies on decision-making over the life cycle, register **here**.

All others, please contact us at **label@dornsife.usc.edu**



**USC Dornsife**

Dana and David Dornsife  
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