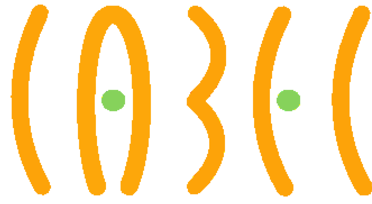
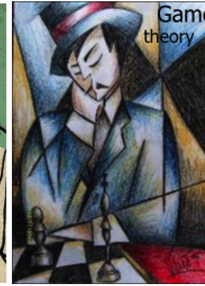


USC Dornsife



Los Angeles Behavioral Economics Laboratory
In honor of Jean-Jacques Laffont

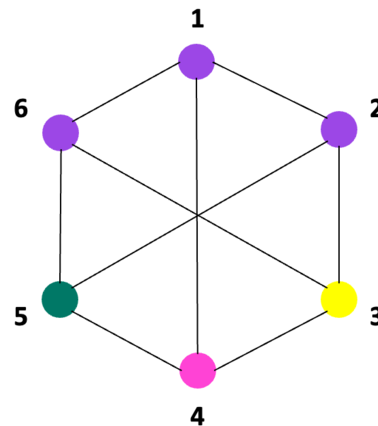


The Los Angeles Behavioral Economics Laboratory (**LABEL**) is a research center led by Dr. Isabelle Brocas and Dr. Juan Carrillo, dedicated to the study of decision-making and its implications on life outcomes and markets. For more information on **LABEL**, please visit our [website](#).

New Research

Little Leaders: How Young Minds Build Consensus in Complex Networks

In a recent study, we explored how young children, aged 5 to 8, build consensus in network environments with limited information. The findings revealed a developmental leap in coordination ability between kindergartners and older children, highlighting the role of "patience heterogeneity"—some acting swiftly to set direction while others deliberate to solidify consensus. Notably, children's flexible, socially responsive decision-making outperformed simple algorithms, showcasing the adaptability of their strategies in complex group settings.



[Young children build consensus in networks with local information](#), I. Brocas, J. Carrillo and U. Rios

Closing the Gap: Unpacking Gender Differences in Competitiveness



This report addresses the complex interplay of biological, cultural, and psychological factors shaping gender differences in competitiveness. From evolutionary adaptations to societal stereotypes, it uncovers why women often shy away from competitive environments and the consequences for personal and societal progress. The findings highlight actionable solutions, including structural reforms, early educational interventions, and cultural shifts, to foster equitable opportunities. By bridging this gap, we

can unlock untapped potential, advancing innovation and economic growth for all.

"Closing the Gap: Unpacking Gender Differences in Competitiveness", I. Brocas and S. Zhou.

For more information about our research, please check [here](#).

For a full list of our reports, check [here](#).

LABEL Trainee Features



Genie Tang attends Valencia High School in Placentia, California and is interested in business economics.

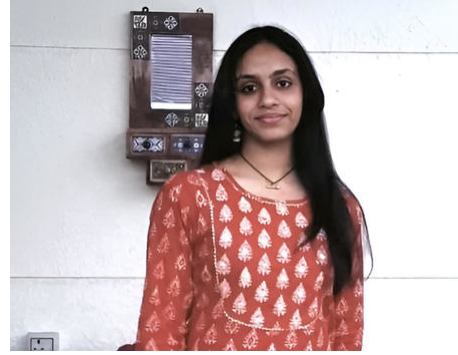
"Being a student researcher for the LABEL Training Program has been a truly rewarding experience. I have been exposed to real-world topics that I never would've considered before, and my horizons have been broadened in the field of behavioral economics. From forager-horticulturalists in Bolivia to everyday college students in America, LABEL has taught me that we are all interconnected in a unique way, and these connections should be explored with open-mindedness and curiosity. I am very grateful

for the opportunity to work with the LABEL team along with taking on fresh perspectives in research for my final year in high school."

Adhya Bobby is a high school senior studying at Indus International School in Bangalore, India.

"I am interested in behavioural sciences and its impact on human relationships, labour laws, and public policies. It has been a great experience to participate in the LABEL program. The course gave me insights into the

wonderful world of research and I thoroughly enjoyed contributing to the literature reviews. It was interesting to see how different intellects collect and interpret data which helps them understand the complexities of decision making. LABEL has further inspired me to pursue my interests in this field."



Events



New Seminar!

Our LABEL Seminar series is now partnering with our new departmental seminar "Behavioral and Experimental Economics". Register [here](#) to attend on zoom.

Check our current and future events [here](#).

Dissemination

Check Isabelle's blog "[Biology, Development, and Behavior](#)" on Psychology Today

Isabelle's interview about "Game Theory Goes To School: Strategic Decisions in Young Minds" on [Game Changer](#)

"Why do children pass in the centipede game: cognitive limitations vs. risk calculations". Watch on the [Faculti platform](#)

Announcements

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 now accepting **applications** for academic year 2025-2026.



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**



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