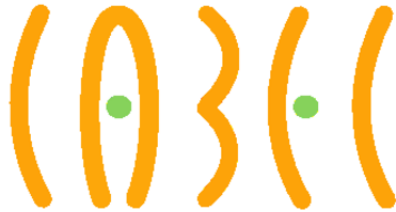


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USC Dornsife



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



The Los Angeles Behavioral Economics Laboratory (**LABEL**) is a research center dedicated to experimental research on economic decision-making and strategic interactions, led by Dr. Isabelle Brocas and Dr. Juan Carrillo. At **LABEL**, we focus on the collection of "non choice" data such as reaction times, skin conductance, neural activity, and eye movements to better understand the mechanisms underlying decision-making. We are also particularly interested in the study of age-related changes in decision-making. For more information on **LABEL**, please visit our **website**.



Call for Papers: Decision-making by children

Journal of Economic Behavior & Organization (JEBO) will publish a special issue which aims to gather frontier research related to developmental aspects of decision-making.

Guest editors: Isabelle Brocas and Juan Carrillo, USC

Submission deadline: **February 1st, 2018**

For more information, contact Prof. **Juan Carrillo**

Call for papers

Stress makes us blind to

context

One of our recent studies has investigated the effect of stress on risk taking in strategic settings. We designed games in which the underlying risk preferences were expected to impact behavior differently. Subjects in the treatment



group performed the Socially Evaluated Cold Pressor Test, which is known to induce stress and increase cortisol levels. We found that subjects in our control group behaved qualitatively as expected. By contrast, behavior was similar in all tasks among stressed subjects. This result illustrated that exposure to stress may result in a form of contextual blindness. A possible explanation for the highly significant connection across tasks in the stress condition is that stressed subjects habitually rely on one mechanism to make a decision in all contexts whereas unstressed subjects utilize a more cognitively flexible approach. [Read more about our research.](#)



Strategic giving in children and adolescents

Are children altruistic or strategic? A recent experimental game theory study with 334 school-age children and adolescents (from K to 12th grade) and 48 college students showed that altruism increases with age in children and drops after adolescence. Older children and adults are however able to anticipate the potential gains of acting generously in

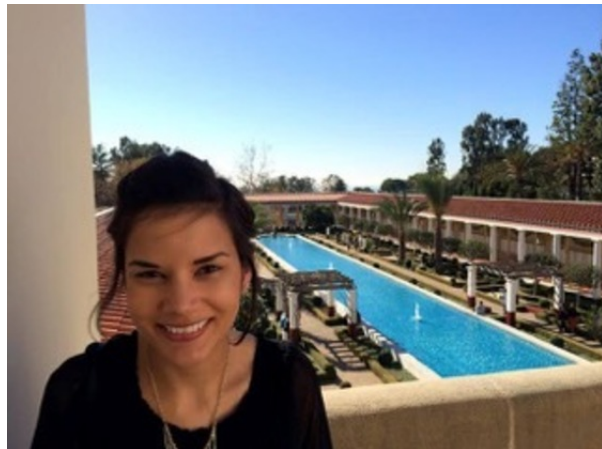
strategic settings. The study showed that children younger than 7 years of age are neither altruistic nor strategic while college students give strategically and exhibit a relatively low level of altruism. Participants in the intermediate age range gradually learn to anticipate the long-term benefits of cooperation and to adapt their behavior to that of their partner. A turning point after which cooperation can be sustained occurs at about 11-12 years of age. [Read more about our research.](#)

Back to School! Welcome our new members.

Jekaterina Zyuzin (Katie) is the new junior neuroscientist at LABEL. Katie is a PhD student in the Neuroscience Graduate Program at USC. She is interested in studying how decision-making is compromised in older adults using fMRI and behavioral tasks. Her background is in intrinsic imaging, field recordings and immunohistochemistry in rodents. She used these techniques to study cortical spreading depression (that is thought to underlie migraine auras) to unravel basic network involved in stress.



We are pleased to welcome **Sophia Mohiuddin**. Sophia began working at USC in the Office of the Provost, and concurrently manages LABEL and the Prescott Lab. She is an M.A. student in Learning Design and Technology and a Psychology alumna from California State University, Long Beach



Participate in our studies



If you are a **student or an employe** from the Univeristy of Southern California, you can register **here**.

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

If you are **living in Los Angeles and are 50 and older** and would like to participate in our studies on decision-making in aging, you can register **here**.

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



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Dana and David Dornsife
College of Letters, Arts and Sciences

USC Dornsife University Park Campus | Los Angeles, CA 90089 US

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