

# USCDornsife



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 Report

### Shining City on a Chapel Hill: A History & Analysis of Consequential Early Childhood Interventions



Many of the observed differences in life outcomes originate in early childhood, where poorer children often have worse nutrition and less mental and physical stimulation. This report analyzes the academic literature about three programs - the Abecedarian Project, the Jamaican Study, and Reach Up - that all provide interventions aimed at reducing these early differences. We find that interventions in early childhood lead to lifelong benefits in academic performance, employment outcomes, and risk attitudes, and that these effects are robust between settings and cultures.

**Shining City on a Chapel Hill: A History & Analysis of Consequential Early Childhood Interventions**, U. Rios and I. Brocas, LABEL reports, August 2024

For more information about our research, please check [here](#).  
For a full list of our reports, check [here](#).

## Our students

### Welcome our new Predoctoral Project Specialist!



Ulysses Rios will be taking over the role of Project Specialist, replacing Daniel Hermosillo, who is pursuing his PhD in Economics at the University of Pittsburgh. Ulysses earned his BA in Economics from Cornell University in Ithaca, New York, in 2022. Since 2023, he has been working at the LABEL Lab, contributing to projects focused on social choice theory and networks.

### New to LABEL

Join us in welcoming two new members to the lab!



**Monica Vasco** is a postdoctoral researcher. She earned her PhD in Data Science and Experimental Economics in 2023 at Loyola Andalucía University, Spain. Since 2021, Monica has worked as a research assistant at LoyolaBehLab, specializing in lab-in-the-field experiments with adolescents, data analysis, and behavioral economics. Her research focuses on risk tasks, social networks, and decision-making. She also serves as the data manager for TeensLab (<https://loyolabelab.org/teenslab/>)

**Joyce Cao** joins us through the LABEL in-person training program. Her professional experience has primarily been in the health and wellness industries with a focus on drug safety and post-market surveillance. She has a BS in Health Promotion & Disease Prevention Studies from USC and an MS in Epidemiology from the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health. She is interested in exploring the intersection of behavioral economics and public health, particularly how behavioral economics can be applied to understanding health behaviors and decision-making.



### LABEL Training Program

The LABEL Training Program welcomes our new students attending remotely! Meet our [current cohort](#).

## 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](#)

## 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.

### LAX News

The LAX conference on September 27, 2024 at Caltech was a success! Looking forward to the next event! Stay tuned!

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

## 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**, 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](mailto:label@dornsife.usc.edu)



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