ALISHER BATMANOV

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UC San Diego

Education	**University of California San Diego**
	Ph.D. Economics, 2021 to 2027 (expected)
	Central European University, Austria
	M.A. Economics, *summa cum laude*, 2021
	Nazarbayev University, Kazakhstan
	B.A. Economics, *magna cum laude*, 2019

Fields Experimental Economics
Behavioral Economics

References

Professor Emanuel Vespa
University of California San Diego
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Professor Isabel Treviño
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Professor Marta Serra-Garcia
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Professor Denis Shishkin
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Working Papers

"Mental Models, Social Learning and Statistical Discrimination: A Laboratory Study"

In economic decision-making, individuals often rely on subjective representation of the environment to process information and make inferences. Using a laboratory experiment, I investigate how such mental models transform when people are exposed to the evaluations of others, particularly in scenarios where one or more parties may adopt an incorrect or *misspecified* model. Participants face a hiring task where their goal is to choose a worker with higher ability by integrating a noisy education signal with prior group information. The design of treatment conditions varies subjects' exposure to choices by another participant, using one group to present evaluations closely aligned with the theoretical Bayesian benchmark and another to expose subjects to evaluations consistent with signal neglect. I find that exposure to optimal behavior improves decision quality, with treated subjects making up to 22 percentage points more optimal choices. However, many participants appear to imitate others' decisions without internalizing the correct decision rule, leading to mislearning once the primitives of the environment change. Using a diagnostic treatment, I find that helping subjects recognize the optimality of others' choices only partially improves their decisions. Conversely, exposure to suboptimal choices has a weaker and statistically insignificant negative effect, with lower confidence in one's choices strongly associated with following others' suboptimal actions. These findings highlight the dual role of social learning: while it can enhance decision-making, it also fosters mechanical imitation that fails to generalize beyond the observed context.

"Beliefs and Demand for Mental Health Services Among University Students" (with Idaliya Grigoryeva, Bruno Calderón-Hernández, Roberto González-Téllez and Alejandro Guardiola) - *under review*

This paper investigates the role of beliefs and stigma in shaping students' use of professional mental health services at a large private university in Mexico, where supply-side barriers are minimal, and services are readily accessible. In an online experiment with 680 students, we estimate a large

treatment gap with nearly 50% of students in distress not receiving professional mental health support despite a high level of awareness and perceived effectiveness. We document stigmatized beliefs and misconceptions correlated with the treatment gap. For example, three-quarters of students incorrectly believe that those in distress perform worse academically, and many underestimate how common therapy use is among their peers. To correct inaccurate beliefs, we implement an information intervention and find that it increases students' willingness to share on-campus mental health resources with peers and encourages them to recommend these resources when advising a friend in distress. However, we also find that it lowers their willingness to pay for external services, suggesting a potential substitution effect from private therapy to free on-campus resources.

Work in Progress	**"Learning Under Contingent Thinking: An Experiment"** (with Jeongbin Kim and Emanuel Vespa)
	"Narrative and Bayesian Persuasion in the Laboratory" (with Bridget Galaty)
Teaching	Microeconomics A, UC San Diego, course instructor, 2025
	Econometrics B, UC San Diego, course instructor, 2024
	Principles of Microeconomics, UC San Diego, TA for Prof. Melissa Famulari, 2024-2025
	Experiments in Firms, UC San Diego, TA for Prof. Sally Sadoff and Prof. Anya Samek, 2024-2025
	Microeconomics B, UC San Diego, TA for Prof. Aram Grigoryan, 2024
	Game Theory, UC San Diego, TA for Prof. Joel Watson and Prof. Denis Shishkin, 2023-2024
	Econometrics B (PhD level), UC San Diego, TA for Prof. Xinwei Ma, 2023
Research	Research Assistant for Professor Marc Kaufmann, Central European University, 2020
Seminars & Conferences	Economic Science Association North American Meeting, Columbus, 2024
	Behavioral & Experimental Economics Student Conference, Caltech, 2023-2024
	Los Angeles Experiments (LAX) Conference, Caltech, 2024
	Learning, Computational and Bayesian Methods in Experimental Economics, Purdue, 2024
	CTESS Summer Institute in Theory-Based Experiments, Caltech, 2023
Research Grants	The Weiss Fund for Research in Development Economics, 2023-2024
	UC-Mexico Alianza Short-Term Research Stay in Mexico, 2024
	Institute for Humane Studies - Conference Accelerator Grant, 2024
	Foundation of Budapest Research Grant, Central European University, 2021
Fellowships & Awards	Diversity Research Fellowship, UC San Diego, 2024
	Regents and Summer Research Fellowship, UC San Diego, 2021-2022
	Peter Hangartner Prize and Fellowship, Central European University, 2021
	Outstanding Student in Economics Award, Nazarbayev University, 2019
Languages	Kazakh (native), English (fluent), Russian (fluent)
Software skills	Python, Stata, Matlab, Julia, oTree, JavaScript