ALISHER BATMANOV

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UC San Diego

Education	**University of California San Diego**
	Ph.D. Economics, 2021-2027 (expected)
	Advisors: Prof. Emanuel Vespa and Prof. Isabel Treviño
	Central European University, Austria
	M.A. Economics, *summa cum laude*, 2021
	Nazarbayev University, Kazakhstan
	B.A. Economics, *magna cum laude*, 2019

Research Fields   Experimental Economics, Behavioral Economics

Publications   **"Beliefs, Information Sharing, and Mental Health Care Use Among University Students"**
(with Idaliya Grigoryeva, Bruno Calderón-Hernández, Roberto González-Téllez and Alejandro Guardiola)
*Forthcoming at **Journal of Development Economics***

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.

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

Behavioral biases in decision-making are widespread and often persist even in the presence of feedback that is diagnostic of optimal behavior. Using a laboratory experiment, I examine whether exposure to others' decisions can correct initial misconceptions and facilitate learning in a worker hiring task where deviations from the theoretical benchmark arise from neglecting an informative signal. I show that exposure to optimal behavior substantially improves decision quality, while exposure to suboptimal choices has a weak negative effect. The analysis reveals substantial heterogeneity in learning beyond exposure: roughly one-third of subjects mechanically replicate observed choices and revert to suboptimal behavior once exposure ends, another third maintain improved performance only when the task environment remains unchanged, and the remaining third exhibit deeper learning that transfers to a related task with altered primitives. These findings highlight the dual role of social learning: while it can enhance decision-making, it can also generate imitation that fails to generalize beyond the observed context.

Work in Progress   **"Learning to Ignore Irrelevant Contingencies: An Experiment"**
(with Jeongbin Kim and Emanuel Vespa)

"Experiment on Narratives and Information in Persuasion"
(with Bridget Galaty)

Relevant Positions   Lab manager at UCSD Economics Laboratory (EconLab), 2025-

UCSD Undergraduate-Graduate Economic Research Lab Mentor, 2023-
Research Assistant for Marc Kaufmann, Central European University, 2020

Teaching at UC San Diego

Intermediate Econometrics (Econ 120B), course instructor, Fall 2025
Intermediate Microeconomics (Econ 100A), course instructor, Summer 2025
Intermediate Econometrics (Econ 120B), course instructor, Summer 2024

Experiments in Firms, TA for Prof. Sally Sadoff and Prof. Anya Samek, 2024-2025
Microeconomics Principles, TA for Prof. Melissa Famulari, 2024
Intermediate Microeconomics, TA for Prof. Aram Grigoryan, 2024
Game Theory, TA for Prof. Joel Watson and Prof. Denis Shishkin, 2023-2024
Econometrics (Econ 220B, PhD level), TA for Prof. Xinwei Ma, 2023

Conferences & Schools

Economic Science Association (ESA) North American Meeting, *Tucson AZ*, 2025
Los Angeles Experiments (LAX) Conference, *UCLA*, 2025
Behavioral & Experimental Economics Student Conference, *UCSB*, 2025
Behavioral Economics Annual Meeting (BEAM), *UC Berkeley*, 2025
Advances with Field Experiments (AFE) Conference, *University of Chicago*, 2025
The Chicago School in Experimental Economics (CSEE), *University of Chicago*, 2025
American Economic Association (AEA) Mentoring Conference, *Chicago*, 2025
Economic Science Association (ESA) North American Meeting, *Columbus OH*, 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

(* for scheduled)

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

Refereeing

Games and Economic Behavior

Languages

Kazakh (native), English (fluent), Russian (fluent)

Software skills

Python, Stata, Matlab, Julia, oTree, JavaScript