September 2019

Professor Lise Vesterlund

ECS564

Identification Through Experiments:

Gender and Charitable Giving

*Course Description*

The course presents advanced topics in behavioral and experimental economics. The emphasis will be on how we can use of lab and field experiments to address questions related to charitable giving and gender differences in the labor market.

*Lectures:*

The course consists of ten lecturers and several student presentations. Two lectures will be on methodology, three on charitable giving, four on gender, and one on navigating academia.

The lecture plan is as follows (subject to change):

Lecture 1: Methodology I

Lecture 2: Charitable giving I: Why do people give?

Lecture 3: Charitable giving II: Fundraising - Lead Giving

Lecture 4: Charitable giving III: Fundraising – Lotteries, Matching

Lecture 5: Navigating academia

Lecture 6: Gender I: Competition

Lecture 7: Gender II: Task allocation

Lecture 8: Faculty Lecture: Gender III: Negotiation

Lecture 9: Gender IV: Discrimination

Lecture 10: Methodology II

Lectures will present several key contributions within each topic. An effort will be made to concentrate on series of experiments, in order to see how experiments build on one another and allow researchers with different theoretical dispositions to narrow the range of potential disagreement. A list of some of the articles to be discussed is listed below.

Charitable Giving:

["Using Experimental Methods to Understand Why and How We Give to Charity,"](http://www.pitt.edu/~vester/handbook_charity.pdf) in J. Kagel and A. Roth (eds.), *The Handbook of Experimental Economics*, Vol. 2, Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2016.

["The Effects of Status on Charitable Giving,"](http://www.pitt.edu/~vester/jpet2010.pdf) with Cagri Kumru. Journal of Public Economic Theory, 2010, 12(4), 709-735.

["Leading-by-Example and Signaling in Voluntary Contribution Games: An Experimental Study"](http://www.pitt.edu/~vester/jet2007.pdf) with Jan Potters and Martin Sefton. Economic Theory, 2007, vol. 33, 169-182.

["Why Do People Give? Testing Pure and Impure Altruism,"](http://www.pitt.edu/~vester/aer_whygive.pdf) with Mark Ottoni-Wilhelm and Huan Xie. American Economic Review, 2017, vol. 107(11), 3617-33

["Error Prone Inference from Response Time: The Case of Intuitive Generosity,"](http://www.pitt.edu/~vester/jpube_errorprone.pdf) with Maria Recalde and Arno Riedl. Journal of Public Economics, 2018, vol. 160, 132-147.

Gender:

["Do Women Shy Away from Competition? Do Men Compete Too Much"](http://www.pitt.edu/~vester/qje.pdf)with Muriel Niederle. Quarterly Journal of Economics, August 2007, vol. 122(3), 1067-1101.

["Gender Differences in Accepting and Receiving Requests for Tasks with Low Promotability,"](http://www.pitt.edu/~vester/aer_promotability.pdf) with Linda Babcock, Maria Recalde and Laurie Weingart. American Economic Review, 2017, vol. 107(3), 714-747.

["Knowing When to Ask: The Cost of Leaning In,"](http://www.pitt.edu/~vester/wp_whentoask_201810.pdf) with Christine Exley and Muriel Niederle,

["Gender Differences in Bargaining Outcomes: A Field Experiment on Discrimination,"](http://www.pitt.edu/~vester/jpube_taxiLIma.pdf) with Marco Castillo, Ragan Petrie and Maximo Torero. Journal of Public Economics, 2013, vol. 99, 35-48.

["Gender and Competition"](http://www.pitt.edu/~vester/ar2011.pdf) with Muriel Niedele. Annual Review of Economics, 2011, vol. 3, 601-630.

Methodology:

["The Slider Task: An Example of Restricted Inference on Incentive Effects,"](http://www.pitt.edu/~vester/jesa_slidertask.pdf) with Felipe A. Araujo, Erin Carbone, Lynn Conell-Price, Marli W. Dunietz, Ania Jaroszewicz, Rachel Landsman, Diego Lamé, Stephanie Wang and Alistair J. Wilson. Journal of the Economic Science Association, 2016, vol. 2, issue 1, 1-12.

["The External Validity of Laboratory Experiments: The Misleading Emphasis on Quantitative Effects"](http://www.pitt.edu/~vester/External_Validity.pdf)with Judd Kessler in *Handbook of Experimental Economic Methodology*, edited by Guillaume Frechette and Andrew Schotter, Oxford University Press, 2015.

*Course Requirements:*

Approved individual term paper (approximately 15 page), covering a topic related to the course, submitted by the end of October 2019.