PhD Course

Behavioral & Experimental Economics

**Dates:** The course takes place on four Fridays. Sessions are such that participants have sufficient time to develop and run their experiments:

13th November 2020, 11th December 2020,
22nd January 2021, and 19th March 2021.

**Time:** 09:00 - 16:00 h

**Place:** Universität Hamburg (more details follow)

**Course Instructor:** Prof. Dr. Markus Nöth and Prof. Dr. Guido Voigt (both UHH)

**Course Value:** 2 SWS/5 LP

**Teaching language:** English

**Registration:** guidov.voigt@uni-hamburg.de (First come, first-served)

**Course Overview:** The main goal of this course is to introduce the design and implementation of both laboratory and field experiments in various fields of Economics and Business Administration. PhD students who have some experience with or who consider to set up an experiment are welcome to participate in this course.

First, we will identify different research questions for a laboratory or a field experiment. We start with discussing critical theory assumptions. We then show how research hypotheses can be inferred from behavioral models and how these hypotheses may be tested in lab or field studies.

Second, participants will critically discuss an experimental paper (either provided by us or self-selected) that is instructive for their own research field.

Third, participants will develop an experimental design and conduct a pilot experiment that is run in class. We introduce basic statistics along with a discussion how they relate to the experi-
Participants have the option to take a research ethics training (https://about.citiprogram.org/en/homepage/) that becomes increasingly important to conduct research projects with colleagues from the United States. All students will learn the basic requirements of a human subjects committee.

**Course Contents:**
- Identify a suitable research question for an experiment
- Ethical and scientific standards: historical and scientific reasons, consent requirements, human subjects committee, special requirements (children, elderly people, inmates, ...), data collection and evaluation
- Individual and group experiments in the laboratory
- Surveys and internet experiments
- Field experiments in cooperation with a company

**Prerequisites:** Basic background in microeconomics, game theory and statistics.

**Assessment:**
- Critical discussion of an experimental paper
- Optional but encouraged: experiment design presentation (extended summary on economic question, relevant literature, hypotheses, design: presentation with max. 10 slides or max. five pages extended abstract); running a pilot experiment

**Schedule (tentative):**

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<th>Day</th>
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| 1st Session | Introduction to the field  
                  Game theoretic models, critical assumptions, Behavioral Models and Research Hypothesis  
                  Laboratory Experiments                                                                 | Katok (2018) |
| 2nd Session | Presentation and discussion of assigned papers.  
                  Statistics & Design Choices  
| 3rd Session | Presentation of research (Problem Description, Research Hypothesis, Experimental Design)  
                  Visit of Experimentallabor (z-Tree, Eye-Tracking, etc.)                                   |                          |
| 4th Session | Presentation of pilot studies (Note: Pilot studies need to be scheduled independently by participants) |                          |
Recommended Texts:

Other useful resources:

Other material (e.g., papers to be presented etc.) will be distributed once we know who participates.