The 8th Topics Workshop of the IMPRS Uncertainty was organized together with the Cologne Graduate School under the title – “CO 5 Cologne Doctoral Workshop on Cognition, Coordination, Cooperation, and Competition”. It was held from September 29th till October 1st 2014 at the University of Cologne.

Due to delays at the Deutsche Bahn the workshop started a bit later than originally planned. Again, the organizers tried to find a good mixture of talks of senior researchers (mainly from the Cologne faculty) – giving insight to their research – and PhD students who used the possibility to present their work to a broader audience.

Felix Bierbrauer gave a short welcome and introduction and then started the workshop program with his talk on “Overcoming the free-rider problem: possibility and impossibility problems”. Right after, Axel Ockenfels talked about on “Design and behavior”. He gave an overview on behavioural economics, giving examples for auctions, nudging, or compensation schemes. His talk was followed by the first student presentation. The presentation of Marian Panganiban (MPI Jena) and Mike Farjam (FSU Jena) dealt with the question of how a pool of homogenous agents forms groups when confronted with social dilemmas and how punishment can enhance or deter cooperation in these groups.

Using an agent-based simulation to answer these questions, initial findings suggest that positive reciprocity has a bigger impact on increasing cooperation within groups while punishment only plays a minor role.

In the evening, the participants met for dinner at the Comedia Wagenhalle, where the scientific discussions could be continued accompanied with delicious food.
Tuesday started with a talk by Bettina Rockenbach on “Advancement of cooperation in the lab and the field”. She talked e.g. about field experiments of direct and indirect punishment which were conducted at Cologne train stations. Following her, Alexander Ritschel, member of the chair of Carlos Alos-Ferrer, gave a presentation about “Dual process and decision times in Cournot oligopoly”.

In the afternoon, three IMPRS Uncertainty students used their chance to present their work to the Cologne audience. Giorgi Jvareishvili presented a research idea on “Innovation, Inequality, and team performance in a threshold public goods game”. Ayu Okvitawanli gave insights in her dissertation topic on “preference differences in intuitive and deliberative decisions” And Gulnaz Anjum talked about the “Effect of high or low in-group status on decision choices based on relational models”.

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In the late afternoon, participants had the chance to discover the city of Cologne under the motto “Köbes, Keller, Kölsch”. Several breweries were visited and of course also Kölsch was tried. Beside a lot of historical and important facts, the guides revealed amusing incidents as well.

Wednesdays program contained a talk by Thomas Mertens, guest of the Cologne faculty at this time on “The social costs of near-rational investment” and by Johannes Buckenmeier on “Trader matching and the selections of market institutions”.

This workshop was a nice “reunion” since several of the PhD students from Cologne already participated in the IMPRS Summer School during the last years.