The International Max Planck Research School on Adapting Behavior in a Fundamentally Uncertain World accomplished its 3rd Summer School from July 26th until August 21st 2009 at the Max Planck Institute of Economics in Jena. The so called “IMPRS Uncertainty” or “Uncertainty School” spans three disciplines: law, economics and psychology. The overlap of this three research approaches is very promising to find more adequate explanations for human decision-making behavior under uncertainty. Brilliant and ambitious students from all over the world work jointly in a three years structured Ph.D. program which provides excellent research conditions and supervision.

The IMPRS Uncertainty is hosted by six partnering institutions:

- MPI of Economics, Jena
- MPI for Human Development, Berlin
- MPI for Research on Collective Goods, Bonn
- Friedrich Schiller University Jena – School of Economics and Business Administration and the Department of Social Psychology
- Indiana University, Bloomington - Program in Cognitive Science and Workshop in Political Science and Policy Analysis
- Hebrew University, Jerusalem - Center for the Study of Rationality
The Max Planck Institute for Human Development, Berlin was founded in 1963, and is a multidisciplinary research institute dedicated to the study of human development and education, and their evolutionary, social, historical, and institutional contexts.

The Max Planck Institute for Research on Collective Goods, Bonn, was founded in 1997. Its mission is to study the law, economics, and politics of collective goods, defined to encompass all those goods whose provision and enjoyment are treated as community concerns.

The Department of Social Psychology of the Friedrich Schiller University Jena endeavors to understand and explain the development and change of the thoughts, emotions and behavior of individuals under the actual, imagined or assumed influence of others. The IMPRS program is integrated in the IGC. The Jena Graduate School Human Behavior in Social and Economic Change is a recently established university institution located at the Friedrich Schiller University Jena, Germany.

The School of Economics and Business Administration of the Friedrich Schiller University Jena values a wide, scientific-based, and practical education, which is also applicable in the business world. The Jena Graduate School The Economics of Innovative Change coordinates its summer school parallel to the IMPRS Uncertainty summer school. The program is funded by the German Science Foundation (DFG) and offers the opportunity to achieve a doctoral degree (PhD) in economics for outstanding candidates.

The Program in Cognitive Science of Indiana University brings together faculty from many departments to study cognition and information. The program is highly integrated and encourages interdisciplinary cooperation between all the participating disciplines.

The Workshop in Political Theory and Policy Analysis at Indiana University combines teaching, research, and related activities where faculty, visiting scholars, and students participate in productive scholarship related to institutional analysis and design. Today, the Workshop is home to an extensive interdisciplinary research agenda and affiliated faculty.

The Center for the Study of Rationality at the Hebrew University, Jerusalem was founded in 1991 and since then, its members apply game-theoretic tools to examine the processes by which individuals seek the path of maximum benefit respond to real-world situations, where individuals with different goals interact.
Overview of Courses & Talks during the IMPRS Uncertainty Summer School 2009

Week 1

Keynote Lecture

Bounded Ethicality
Max Bazerman
Harvard Business School

Lectures

An Introduction to Experimental Economics
Urs Fischbacher
University of Konstanz

Workflow of Statistical Data Analysis
Oliver Kirchkamp
University of Jena

Legal Decisionmaking
Niels Petersen & Emanuel Towfigh
MPI Bonn

Joint seminars:

Investing in Capabilities under Knightian Uncertainty
John Sutton
London School of Economics

Group Membership, Team Preferences, and Expectations
Luigi Mittone
University of Trento

Deliberative and Nondeliberative Processes in Human Behavior
Christoph Vanberg
University of Heidelberg

Week 2

Lectures

Leadership
Steffen Giessner
Erasmus University Rotterdam

Biological, Psychological, and Economic Aspects of Law
Jeffrey Stake
Bloomington

Structural Equation Modeling
Friedrich Funke
University of Jena

Working with Experimental Data - Mixed Effects Models
Oliver Kirchkamp
University of Jena

Guest Lectures

Joint seminar: The Origin and Growth of Industry Clusters: The Making of Silicon Valley and Detroit
Steven Klepper
Carnegie Mellon University

Commitment, Asymmetries and Conflict in Bilateral Bargaining – Static and Dynamic Models
Topi Miettinen
Stockholm School of Economics

Joint seminar: Economics of Science: Old and New
Ed Steinmüller
University of Sussex
Week 3

Lectures

- Working with Experimental Data - Mixed Effects Models
  Oliver Kirchkamp  University of Jena
- Law from a Functional Perspective
  Christoph Engel  MPI Bonn
- The Psychology of Judgment and Decision Making
  Ilan Yaniv  Hebrew University

Guest Lectures

- Motivational regulation of automatic affective processing and action: Counter-regulation and control-dependency
  Klaus Rothermund  University of Jena
- Homo Heuristicus: Why Biased Minds Make Better Predictions
  Gerd Gigerenzer  MPI Berlin
- Context Dependency of Justice
  James Konow  Loyola Marymount University

Week 4

Lectures

- Introduction to the Theory and Application of Fast and Frugal Heuristics
  Konstantinos Katsikopoulos  MPI Berlin
- Basic Microeconomics
  Werner Güth  MPI Jena
- Estimating Preferences for Prediction
  Nathaniel Wilcox  University of Houston

Guest Lectures

- Social Psychological Processes in Social Conflict
  Carsten K.W. De Dreu  University of Amsterdam
- Motivational and Cognitive Processes
  Carsten K.W. De Dreu  University of Amsterdam
- Damages for Losses of Chances
  Urs Schweizer  University of Bonn
Detailed report

In 2009 the 3rd Summer School of the IMPRS Uncertainty started with a grand opening ceremony presenting Max Bazerman as the keynote speaker of this years’ one-month learning marathon. After having presented his thoughts on Bounded Ethicality all attending students and faculty members were enjoying our welcome BBQ at the courtyard of the old university building in Jena.

More than 80 Ph.D. students, post-docs and faculty members joined the grand opening and enjoyed the warm welcome, celebrated with Thuringian Sausages, beer, and soft drinks.

Having set high standards with the first and second IMPRS Uncertainty Summer School in July 2007 and 2008, this years’ expectations were hard to meet.

Just like in the last years, the first two weeks of the Uncertainty Summer School ran simultaneously and in cooperation with the DFG Graduate School Economics of Innovative Change of the University of Jena. More than 50 separate lecture units needed to be arranged such as to fit into the joint program. Not to mention the joint social activities and the get-togethers during the lecture breaks.
The 3rd MPRS Summer School facilitated basic knowledge concerning rationality, statistics, and experimental design. In this way the 2009 program integrates itself into the broader concept of the IMPRS Uncertainty schedule: one year of basic and the subsequent year of advanced courses in each field: law, psychology and economics.

Again, the curriculum comprised in total of 12 courses. Hence, there were three courses per week (each consisting of 5 lecture units) given by members of the partnering institutions or invited speakers. In addition, we invited guest lectures to present their recent work on related fields of the IMPRS Uncertainty.

An integral part of the program is the so called “Group assignment”. Up to 5 students join together to work an interdisciplinary research projects under the supervision of researchers of the MPI Jena. Their task is to come up with a promising research question (week 1), to design a related experiment (week 2), to conduct this experiment (week 3) – optimally with participants of the Summer School, and, subsequently, to analyze the results (week 4). Each group presented the status quo of their projects, once per week in front of a greater auditorium, consisting of senior researchers of the MPIoE and the faculty of the IMPRS Uncertainty.
During the mornings of the first week courses took place at the facilities of the DFG Graduate School Economics of Innovative Change ("GK EIC"). Thanks to the cafeteria team of Mrs. Schnorr, lunch was served at the MPI of Economics. Hence, all afternoon sessions were held in the rooms of the MPIoE. Having started the Summer School with a proper welcome address by Uwe Cantner and Oliver Kirchkamp, students engaged in the learning program – as early as 8:15 am each day.

On Tuesday, students had the opportunity to present their research at a poster session outside of the cafeteria. In stimulating talks the students received feedback from the faculty and interested colleagues.

The first week was concluded by a sportive weekend. Interested students could participate in volleyball, soccer, and even a tour to the Climbing Park Hohenfelden on Sunday, August 2nd.
**Week two**
The second week was highlighted by a joint talk of Steven Klepper and Ed Steinmüller, both providing interesting insights to state of the art knowledge in economics. After two years of experience, the joint lunches and dinners have proven a precious instrument to facilitate contacts and to get into closer contact with guests and the faculty. The GK EIC farewell event in the botanical garden on August 09 marked the end of the DFG’s Summer School.

**Week three**
During the third week of the Summer School students had to proceed with their group assignment and, therefore, conducted their experiments related to the topic of their group projects in the experimental laboratory of the MPI of Economics at the Goethe Galerie or at the video lab. The psychological focus of this week was pronounced by the trip to the Wolfgang Köhler Center of the Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropologies’ Department of Developmental and Comparative Psychology in Leipzig. After discussing issues on the behavior and cognition of the apes with our guides students took the chance to visit the zoo and the inner city of Leipzig.
**Week four**

The final week is usually the most demanding one, since students finalize their small research projects but still have to attend courses and talks.

However, participation was high and remarkable courses, e.g., “Estimating Preferences for Prediction” by Nathaniel Wilcox were heavily attended, as usually.

The 3rd IMPRS Uncertainty summer school was completed by a small Graduation Ceremony in the seminar room of the institute where all participants received their certificates. The main organizers Susanne Büchner, Tobias Uske, and the student helpers Anne Lohmann, Annika Kelm, Martin Pötzsch, as well as Nadine Erdmann and Ricö Löbel were thanked for all their efforts and for making the Summer School a success.

Even though the last day was neither warm nor sunny, we had the opportunity to celebrate the successful ending at our Farewell Party. A joint dinner at the Ricarda Huch Haus with pleasant music and company concluded this years’ Summer School. Again, the *IMPRS Uncertainty Summer School* brought together young and established researches and created a stimulating work and research environment. The 4th Summer school will take place from July 26 – August 20, 2010 at the Max Planck Institute of Economics in Jena.
# Attendance to courses and talks Summer School 2009

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