

Consistency of Microeconomic Behaviour across Canada

Department of Economics
Visiting Speaker: Jason Childs

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Administration Building A1043

This event is open to the public.
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Standard economic models do not always precisely predict human behaviour. While minor deviations from those predicted by economic theory are often qualitatively consistent across different populations and/or across different timeframes, it is important to appreciate that even small deviations in expected behaviour can have significant implications for the effectiveness of institutions and the efficacy of policy. Although previous studies have, within the context of a specific game, focused on how a specific human behaviour has deviated from the predictions of economic models, this study, utilizes a battery of four games, coupled with a socio-demographic survey, to search for consistency in behaviour across games and across three distinct regions of Canada: Saskatchewan, New Brunswick, and Newfoundland and Labrador. The empirical finding demonstrated a high degree of qualitative similarity in behaviours among subjects in these different locations, but there were statistically significant differences in quantitative behaviour along multiple dimensions.

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Dr. Childs is an Associate Professor of Economics at the University of Regina who teaches experimental/behavioural economics as well as the Economics of Beer. His primary research area is experimental economics focusing, of late, on dishonesty and trust. He also examined the demand for alcoholic beverages in Canadian province, focusing on the ability of pricing to manage consumption. He has conducted a wide variety of policy work for provincial governments and professional organizations. He is also a co-author of introductory level texts in microeconomics and macroeconomics. Most recently, he contributed to a report on the effective regulation and management of the soon to be legal cannabis market in Saskatchewan. His work has been published in a wide variety of academic outlets including the Journal of Public Economics, Review of International Economics, Computational Economics, Journal of International Financial Markets, Institutions, and Money, Economics Letters, Business and Society Review and Applied Economics Letters.

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