



Newsletter

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- Craig McKenzie**, cmckenzie at ucsd.edu, 2009 Program Committee Chair
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- Dan Goldstein**, dgoldstein at london.edu, Newsletter Editor 2006-

JDM Newsletter Editor

(Submissions & Advertisements)

Dan Goldstein

London Business School

Regent's Park, Sussex Place

London, NW1 4SA

United Kingdom

Voice: +44 (0) 20 7000 8611, Fax: +44 (0) 20 7000 8601

dgoldstein at london.edu

Secretary/Treasurer

SJDM c/o Bud Fennema

College of Business, P.O. Box 3061110

Florida State University

Tallahassee, FL 32306-1110

Voice: (850)644-8231, Fax: (850)644-8234

bfennema at cob.fsu.edu

The SJDM Newsletter, published electronically four times a year (March, June, September, and December), welcomes short submissions and book reviews from individuals and groups. Essays should: i) be less than 400 words, ii) use inline citations and no reference list, iii) not include a bio (a URL or email is ok). If you are interested in reviewing books and related materials, please email Dan Goldstein. The best way to send your contribution is via email, or as an MS Word email attachment.

Advertising Rates: Advertising can be submitted to the editor. Inclusion of the ad and the space given to the ad is at the editor's discretion. The current charge is \$200 per page. Contact Dan Goldstein for details.

Address Corrections: Please keep your mailing and/or email address current. Address changes or corrections should be sent Bud Fennema. Reports of problems in receiving or opening the pdf file should be sent to the editor.

Society membership: Requests for information concerning membership in the Society for Judgment and Decision Making should be sent to Bud Fennema.

Announcements

Andreas Ortmann (aortmann at yahoo.com) writes:

“This is to remind you to share your experiences (both negative AND positive) with editorial processes at <http://www.journalsfeedback.org>

This project is decidedly unscientific but seems to have some useful function as many (of you) have assured us. If you have questions and suggestions, please do not hesitate to let us know. And feel free to spread the word”

The London-Wide Economics of Behaviour and Decision Making Seminar series announces its schedule for Spring 2009: http://www.decisionresearchlab.com/ebdm/?page_id=4

Those interested in joining the EBDM announcement mailing list can do so by visiting: <http://tinyurl.com/yvw2sr> Subscription via RSS feed is at <http://www.decisionresearchlab.com/ebdm/>

Shih-Kung Lai (lai at mail.ntpu.edu.tw) writes:

“Knowing how to make decisions without recognizing their relationship to other decisions is not good enough. Knowing how complex systems work without recognizing how to make decisions in such systems in order to thrive is not good enough either. You are invited to submit your work to International Journal of Operations and Quantitative Management for a special issue of decision making in complex systems at <http://www.ijqm.org/>. We welcome work both in quantitative and qualitative methods that addresses rational choice in light of complexity.

Please kindly note that the deadline for submission is 31 May 2009 and we look forward to your manuscripts.”

David Hardman (d.hardman at londonmet.ac.uk) writes of

“... a wiki site that I have recently created, which is devoted to the topic of Teaching, Learning & Assessment. This can be found at <http://tla.wikidot.com/>

One motivation for this site results from a drive towards "blended learning" in the UK, particularly incorporating the use of e-learning technology....thus the site is a guide for the baffled (as some of my colleagues seem to be). However, with regard to technology in education I suspect that the US may be ahead of us in some respects, as reflected by the fact that many of the concrete examples on the site are

American. Please have a browse, and if you might be interested in helping to improve the content then you can apply to join the site as a member.

Finally, let me throw aside usual British reticence by mentioning that a JDM textbook I have written has just been published. The title is "Judgment and decision making: Psychological Perspectives", published by BPS-Blackwell. The publishers page is linked below, but you'll find that the price is currently discounted at Amazon."

<http://www.wiley.com/WileyCDA/WileyTitle/productCd-1405123982.html>

Christian Lebiere, Coty Gonzalez, Walter Warwick write:

"We write to invite you to participate in a Modeling Comparison Challenge: "Predicting Cognitive Performance in Open-ended Dynamic tasks". The goal of the challenge is to advance the state of the art in cognitive modeling by evaluating alternative cognitive models against human performance in a common dynamic task. The task captures in an integrated manner some of the key aspects of human cognition including the detection of temporal regularities and the ability to control dynamic systems.

The description of the challenge and the information for participation (including data, task environment, references and documentation) can be found on the challenge web site:

<http://www.cmu.edu/ddmlab/modeldsf>

Please send an E-mail to: DSFChallenge at gmail.com to register as soon as possible. You must be registered before submitting your model. The most important dates are:

The Modeling Comparison Challenge will be the focus of a symposium at the Behavior Representation In Modeling and Simulation (BRIMS-2009) on April 1, 2009 in Sundance, Utah.

Deadline for model submissions is May 15, 2009.
Announcement of the challenge results is June 1, 2009.

The results and winner(s) will be presented at a symposium at the International Conference on Cognitive Modeling (ICCM 2009 <http://www.iccm2009.net/>) in Manchester, UK on July 24th-26th, 2009. One representative for each of the 3 best models will be invited to present at the ICCM symposium. Their expenses will be covered for up to \$2000 US dollars. Thank you for your attention and we look forward to receiving your models!"

Maya Bar Hillel (msmaya at math.huji.ac.il) writes

"Our very own Dick Thaler [*and Cass Sunstein -ed*] is one of TIME Magazine's candidates for "Most influential individuals" in 2009 (along with other luminaries such as Bernie Madoff and Rod

Blagojevich, to name a few). As far as I can tell, he is the only JDMer on the list (of 203 candidates for 100 spots). If you want to impact on the results, go to:

http://www.time.com/time/specials/packages/article/0,28804,1883644_1883653_1885492,00.html

and use the slider on the left as you see fit.”

Anyone interested in reviewing a Springer book entitled “Medical Decisions, Estrogen and Aging” for this newsletter can contact Marion Wagenaar at marion.wagenaar@springer.com for a review copy.

Conferences

AAMAS-09 Tutorial on
Decision making in Extended Multiagent Interactions (DEMI)

Budapest, Hungary,
May 10-12 2008

This full-day tutorial deals with time-extended normative decision making in multi-agent systems. Drawing motivation from the search and rescue applications in disaster management, the tutorial will span the range of multiagent interactions of increasing generality, and study a set of optimal and approximate solution techniques to decision making in these contexts. The tutorial will be self-contained, introducing the relevant background literature such as aspects of game theory. The tutorial will present models and solution techniques based both on game and decision theoretic concepts.

The list of topics includes:

- * Requirements for the multiagent decision model and solution
- * Game theory background
 - Repeated strategic and Bayesian games
 - Iterative solution methods (e.g. fictitious play)
- * Multi-agent stochastic (Markov) games
 - Decentralised Markov decision processes (DEC-MDPs)
 - Model specializations
- * Partially observable stochastic games (POSGs)
 - Partially observable Dec-MDPs (DEC-POMDPs)
 - Interactive POMDPs (I-POMDPs)
- * Uncertainty utilization
 - Targeted trajectory distributions (TTD-MDP)

-- Stigmergic solution with perceptual control (Multi-agent EMT)

Registration information is available at
<http://www.conferences.hu/AAMAS2009/registration.html>

Sincerely,
DEMI Organizing Committee
Prashant Doshi, Zinovi Rabinovich and Piotr J. Gmytrasiewicz

The Subjective Probability Utility and Decision Making (SPUDM22) conference will be held in Rovereto (Italy) from Sunday, the 23rd till Thursday, the 27th of August 2009.

The deadline for the online submission of abstracts for papers/posters/symposia is April 10, 2009. Visit the conference web site at: <http://discof.unitn.it/spudm22/>

The organizing committee is pleased to announce that the conference will feature the following invited speakers:

- * Eric Johnson, Columbia University, New York, USA
- * Alan Sanfey, University of Arizona, Arizona, USA
- * Tilmann Betsch, Erfurt University, Germany

The conference will also include a panel discussion on “Automatic and controlled judgment and decision-making” chaired by Cornelia Betsch (Erfurt University, Erfurt, Germany) featuring the invited speakers as well as Ellen Peters (Decision Research, Eugene, USA) and Andreas Gloeckner (Max Planck Institute for Research on Collective Goods, Bonn, Germany) as invited panelists.

FEES (in Euros)

EADM member early before June 10, 2009 140,00
EADM member late after June 10, 2009 170,00
Non-member early before June 10, 2009 170,00
Non-member late after June 10, 2009 210,00
Students early before June 10, 2009 45,00
Students EADM Members early before June 10, 2009 35,00
Students late after June 10, 2009 50,00
Students EADM Members late after June 10, 2009 40,00

Please be invited to submit a short paper to the DECISION NEUROSCIENCE SYMPOSIUM to be held at the 2009 American Psychological Association (APA) Annual Convention in Toronto, Canada from August 6-9. The submission deadline is June 15, 2009. The symposium focuses on: "Methods in Decision Neuroscience".

- Short manuscripts (approximately 8-10 pages including figures, tables, and references) should apply methods from neuroscience (e.g., fMRI, DTI, TMS, lesion studies, single neuron measurement, combination of fMRI with EEG or eye tracking) to problems of decision making (e.g., choice, preference, risk etc.). Topics can originate in neuroeconomics, decision neuroscience, consumer neuroscience, or neurofinance. Manuscripts should be written in a tutorial style and be aimed at inspiring future decision neuroscience researchers.
- Manuscripts passing the double-blind review process will be accepted for presentation at the 2009 APA Convention. Time slots for presentations will be short (approximately 10 minutes per presenter) in order to allow for subsequent discussion and informal networking. The symposium will be a mix of presentations, a panel discussion, and a social hour.
- Additionally, accepted manuscripts will be published in the Journal of Neuroscience, Psychology, and Economics (ISSN 1937-321X)-the joint publication of the American Psychological Association and the Association for NeuroPsychoEconomics.
- Manuscripts submitted to the convention must not be published elsewhere.

More information here: http://www.jnpe.org/e_apasyposium_cfp.html

Association For Consumer Research Conference, Pittsburgh, Pa, Oct 22-25 2009

What:The Association for Consumer Research Annual North American Conference

When: October 22 – 25, 2009

Where: Westin Convention Center Hotel, Pittsburgh, PA, USA

<http://www.starwoodhotels.com/westin/property/overview/index.html?propertyID=1370>

Submission Deadline: Monday, March 23, 2009 by 5:00 pm (EST)

Call for papers: http://acrwebsite.org/ACR_Call_09_Final_01_15.pdf

Co-chairs: Margaret C. Campbell, University of Colorado; Jeff Inman, University of Pittsburgh; Rik Pieters, Tilburg University

Conference Announcement and Call for Submissions

<http://www.acrweb.org/acr/Public/index.aspx>

The 2009 North American Conference of the Association for Consumer Research will be held at the Westin Hotel in Pittsburgh, PA from Thursday, October 22 through Sunday, October 25, 2009.

The theme of ACR 2009 is “A World of Knowledge At the Point of Confluence.” Consumer researchers from around the world will meet in the City at the Point, where the Allegheny and the Monongahela rivers flow together to form the Ohio River. International consumer researchers will gather in Pittsburgh to share the ideas and data that converge to create knowledge.

The conference format will follow that of past years. A pre-conference Doctoral Symposium will be held Thursday (co-chaired by Stacy Wood and Dave Wooten). Thursday evening will feature an opening reception for ACR 2009. The conference program on Friday and Saturday will include Competitive Paper sessions, Special sessions, Roundtable discussions, Working Paper sessions, and the Film Festival. A Gala Reception will be held Saturday evening at the Senator Heinz History Center, just two blocks from the Westin.

ACR 2009 will provide a confluence of consumer researchers for scholarly presentations, discussions, networking and collaborations.

Format and Program Structure

The conference will open with a reception on Thursday evening (after the Doctoral Symposium). Sessions will be held on Friday and Saturday.

There are five types of submission for ACR 2009.

- 1) Competitive Papers represent the completed original work of their authors. The ACR conference co-chairs assign papers to sessions that reflect similar scholarly interests.
- 2) Special Sessions provide opportunities for focused attention on emerging areas of research. Successful sessions drill deeply into a specific issue using similar theoretical or methodological bases, or they promote a confluence of paradigms, methodologies, or research orientations.
- 3) Films at the Film Festival sessions provide video insight into consumer topics.
- 4) Working Papers present preliminary findings from the early stages of a research project. Authors distribute their papers, display posters of their research, and are available to discuss and answer questions during the assigned Working Paper session.
- 5) Roundtables encourage intensive participant discussion of emerging consumer research topics.

Submission and Decision Deadlines

All submissions (for competitive papers, special sessions, working papers, roundtables, and films) must be received by Monday, March 23, 2009 by 5:00 pm Pittsburgh time (EST). In order to maintain accessibility, please note that each ACR participant may present only twice in Special and/or Competitive paper sessions during the conference. When uploading a submission, authors will need to specify the paper presenter.

Notification of acceptance will be made by Friday, July 24, 2009. Final acceptances will be conditional upon receipt of revised documents and copyright release.

General Submission Requirements and Procedures

All submission activity (submissions, reviews and notifications) for ACR 2009 will be electronic, through the conference website at <http://www.acrweb.org/acr/>.

When you first enter the conference website you will need to sign up:

- Click on the “Sign up” tab at the top right of the page.
- Provide your information (name, email address, etc.) (Note: this does NOT register you for the conference; details for conference registration will be sent out in July 2009).
- To submit the information, click on the “Log in” button and then choose “Submitting Author” as your role. You will need your email ID and the password that you created for your user profile.
- Click on the “Submit paper/proposal” button.

All submissions to the 2009 ACR Conference website require the following information:

- Submission Type: Competitive Paper, Special Session, Roundtable, Working Paper, Film Festival
- Title of Submission
- Primary Contact Information: name, affiliation, mailing address, phone number and email address for the author who is the primary contact
- Content Area Codes and Methodological Area Codes (These are critical for assigning reviewers – please pick codes that provide the best match to your work).
- Word 2003 or Rich Text Format file to upload (Don’t use Word 2007)
- Names of Other Co-authors/Participants and their affiliations, and whether they are presenting author(s)

Note: All authors need to ensure that their names appear in the same way in all submissions. This is because the database will consider J. Jeffrey Inman, John Jeffrey Inman, and Jeff Inman as three different authors.

Time limit. Please note that the website will time you out after 60 minutes. Therefore, in order to avoid losing information, it is best to copy and paste your information into submission fields rather than composing it online.

Acknowledgement of receipt. The primary contact person will automatically receive an email acknowledgement of receipt of the submission. If you do not receive an acknowledgement, please check your spam folder. If you do not receive an acknowledgement within 48 hours after submission, please send an email inquiry about the status of your submission to: ACR2009@katz.pitt.edu

Preference Change Workshop
28th May - 30th May, 2009
London School of Economics (LSE)

Venue: Lakatos Building, T206 (Second Floor)

Organised by Franz Dietrich, Conrad Heilmann and Christian List

Supported by the Nuffield Foundation, the LSE Annual Fund and the LSE Choice Group
<http://www.lse.ac.uk/collections/CPNSS/projects/ChoiceGroup/Default.htm>

Modelling Preference Change

Preference change is a phenomenon that everyone experiences in himself or herself. Such change can be gradual or radical, expected or surprising, caused by external experiences (such as encountering another culture) or by internal influences (such as aging), and so on.

How should preference change be explained and modelled? This is a methodological question of tremendous importance, with repercussions in various areas such as dynamic decision theory, welfare economics, consumer theory, moral psychology, philosophy of mind, political science, and the study of deliberation.

Yet the question is far from settled, and a science of preference change, if it exists at all at this point, is certainly in its infancy. To mention only one point of disagreement, standard rational choice models explain every preference change by an underlying belief change, whereas critics reject this reduction.

Preference Change Workshop at the LSE, 28th May - 30th May, 2009

The aim of this workshop is to bring together different researchers with interests in this area and to discuss fresh perspectives. Confirmed speakers include

- * Nick Baigent (Graz)
- * Luc Bovens (LSE)
- * Richard Bradley (LSE)
- * Krister Bykvist (Oxford)
- * Peter Hammond (Warwick/Stanford)
- * Brian Hill (HEC Paris)
- * S?bastien Konieczny (CRIL - CNRS Lens)
- * Wlodek Rabinowicz (Lund)
- * Katie Steele (LSE)

and the workshop organisers. The schedule will be available later on this webpage:
<http://www.lse.ac.uk/collections/CPNSS/projects/ChoiceGroup/PreferenceChange.htm>

Registration and Further Information

Participation is free of charge but registration is needed. Please email [c.heilmann @ lse.ac.uk](mailto:c.heilmann@lse.ac.uk) if you are interested in registering for this workshop.

Multidisciplinary Symposium on Reinforcement Learning Call for Abstracts and Participation

Dates: June 18-19, 2009

Abstract Deadline: April 10, 2009

Location: Montreal, Canada

In the last 25 years, reinforcement learning research has made great strides and had a significant impact within several fields, including artificial intelligence, optimal control, neuroscience, psychology, economics and operations research. These are diverse areas, with different goals and different evaluation criteria. It is striking that reinforcement learning ideas are playing new roles in all of them. The Multidisciplinary Symposium on Reinforcement Learning (MSRL) is meant to recognize this confluence of fields, to celebrate the diversity of reinforcement learning research, and to facilitate the exchange of information among reinforcement learning researchers in all these fields.

The symposium will consist of invited plenary lectures, spanning the breadth of reinforcement learning, and an evening poster session. The confirmed invited speakers are:

- Andrew G. Barto, University of Massachusetts, Amherst, USA
- Dimitri Bertsekas, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, USA
- Peter Dayan, University College London, U.K.
- Read Montague, Baylor College of Medicine, USA
- Andrew Ng, Stanford University, USA
- Warren Powell, Princeton University, USA
- Wolfram Schultz, University of Cambridge, U.K.
- Terrence Sejnowski, Salk Institute, USA
- Richard Sutton, University of Alberta, Canada
- Gerald Tesauro, IBM Research, USA
- Benjamin Van Roy, Stanford University, USA

A few other invitations are pending.

The evening poster session is a highlight of the symposium and is a unique opportunity to share your work and network with researchers from the many disciplines that contribute to modern reinforcement learning. For this poster session, MSRL invites abstracts from all areas of reinforcement learning. We are especially interested in work that:

- Highlights the best of RL-related research in any discipline

- Provides general overviews of a research program with an RL component
- Extends RL to new areas or applications
- Tests RL ideas in new ways
- Illustrates the impact of RL in a field

Submissions should consist of an extended abstract of up to 2 pages. Student submissions are particularly encouraged. Please send all submissions to msrl09@rl-community.org by April 10, 2009.

Notifications of acceptance to the symposium will be sent by May 1, 2009.

MSRL will be co-located in Montreal, Canada, with the International Conference on Machine Learning (ICML), the Conference on Uncertainty in Artificial Intelligence (UAI), and the Conference on Learning Theory (COLT). For more information, please see the MSRL web site at <http://msrl09.rl-community.org>

-MSRL Organizing Committee

Doina Precup, McGill University
 Elliot Ludvig, University of Alberta
 Richard Sutton, University of Alberta
 Shie Mannor, McGill University
 Satinder Singh Baveja, University of Michigan

Jobs

Our newly established multidisciplinary “aivoAALTO” (brainWAVE) research project opens positions in the field of systems-level human brain imaging and related research, with a strong focus on social interaction in natural settings, including economic decision making, cinema viewing, and methodological development. <http://www.aaltoyliopisto.info/en/news/funding-to-aalto-university-s-aivoaalto-research-project> The project involves Helsinki University of Technology (TKK, www.tkk.fi), Helsinki School of Economics (HSE, www.hse.fi) and Helsinki University of Art and Design (TAIK, www.taik.fi). These three schools are just merging to form a new Aalto University (“Aalto”, meaning wave, honors the famous Finnish architect Alvar Aalto).

The partners include scientists from National Centres of Excellence and other research teams

- CoE on Systems Neuroscience and Neuroimaging
http://tl.tkk.fi/wiki/BRU/CoE_Intro
- CoE on Computational Complex Systems
http://www.lce.hut.fi/index_fin.shtml
- CoE on Adaptive Informatics <http://www.cis.hut.fi/>
- CoE on Motion Picture, Television and Production Design
<http://www.taik.fi/elo/english/>
- TKK Department of Media Technology <http://media.tkk.fi/>
- TKK Systems Analysis laboratory (SAL) <http://www.sal.hut.fi/>
- HSE Centre for Knowledge and Innovation Research
<http://www.hse.fi/EN/ckir/>

- HSE Economics http://www.hse.fi/FI/subjects/s_9/economics/
- HSE Finance http://www.hse.fi/EN/subjects/s_10/finance/
- TaiK Media Centre Lume
http://www.lume.fi/lumenet.nsf/paasivut/base_eng
- SimLab, <http://www.simlab.tkk.fi/>

We operate a 3-tesla GE MRI facility (<http://www.ami.tkk.fi>) with versatile stimulation equipment, a 306-channel MEG facility (<http://itl.tkk.fi/wiki/BRU>) plus different settings for eye tracking and measurements of autonomic nervous system activity. Behavioral decision laboratory is under construction.

The available positions are

- 1 PhD student in neuroeconomics and decision making
- 1 PhD student in neurocinematics
- 1 PhD student in brain-imaging-related signal analysis
- 3 postdoctoral positions in human brain imaging and related research
- 2 senior scientist positions in human brain imaging and related research

For PhD student positions, scientists with variable backgrounds are welcome; most important criteria are a good track record and high motivation. The postdoctoral scientists are expected to have experience with fMRI or other human brain imaging methods, or in signal analysis. They are supposed to participate in the aivoAALTO research projects, requiring collaboration between scientists of different backgrounds.

The senior scientists are expected to take an active role and leadership in their own fields of research that should fit to the main goals of aivoAALTO. They will participate in training and recruitment of younger researchers. The ideal candidates will have extensive experience with fMRI recordings or related fields, a record of international peer-reviewed publications, and experience in grant writing. Both postdoc and senior scientists will participate in the training of graduate students. We are flexibly looking for researchers with complementary skills to build up a really innovative and exciting research environment. Working language is English. Most applicants will work at the TKK campus. The positions are initially for three years, but may be extended to 5 years depending on funding. For further details please contact project leader prof. Riitta Hari hari at neuro.hut.fi, Tel +358 9 451 2959, or docent Elina Pihko pihko at neuro.hut.fi +358 50 344 2713.

Positions are available immediately. Applicants should submit, latest on 15 April 2009, a cover letter describing current research interests and future research goals related to the topic of aivoAALTO, a complete CV with publication record (top 10 publications indicated), and the names of potential references to prof. Riitta Hari hari at neuro.hut.fi, preferably in a single file.

Online Resources

SJDM Web site

<http://www.sjdm.org>

Judgment and Decision Making – The SJDM journal, entirely free and online

<http://journal.sjdm.org>

SJDM Newsletter – Current and archive copies of this newsletter

<http://www.sjdm.org/newsletters>

SJDM mailing list – List archives and information on joining the email list

<http://www.sjdm.org/mail-archive/jdm-society/>

Decision Science News – Some of the content of this newsletter is released early in blog form here

<http://www.decisionsciencenews.com>