

CALL FOR PAPERS

"SUBJECTIVE PROBABILITIES AND EXPECTATIONS: METHODOLOGICAL ISSUES AND EMPIRICAL APPLICATIONS TO ECONOMIC DECISION-MAKING."

CONFERENCE

JACKSON LAKE LODGE, GRAND TETON NATIONAL PARK, WYOMING
SEPTEMBER 7 AND 8, 2007

Empirical economic study of intertemporal decision-making under uncertainty usually supposes that decision makers assign subjective probabilities to all future pertinent outcomes such as health status, mortality, asset returns and so forth. Lacking data on these probabilities, macroeconomic models are usually completed by the assumption of rational expectations. At the micro level, analysts commonly use observed population frequencies of events to estimate the subjective probabilities used by individuals in intertemporal decision-making. In the absence of data on expectations, the realism of these estimates is always questionable.

Over the past fifteen years, a number of surveys have provided data on subjective probabilities as well as other expectational data. Indeed, the Health and Retirement Study, the National Longitudinal Survey of Youth 1997, the Survey of Economic Expectations, the English Longitudinal Study of Ageing, and the Survey of Health, Ageing and Retirement in Europe, as well as other surveys have collected considerable data on subjective probabilities. These surveys have been important vehicles for the exploration of the properties of elicited subjective probabilities and of expectations data more generally.

We believe it is opportune to assess what we have learned from the data on subjective probabilities and the other expectational data that have been collected to date. The objective is to make further progress on data collection, analytical methods, and empirical knowledge. This conference requests papers that can help make that assessment.

We welcome papers on a wide variety of topics involving subjective probabilities and expectations, and using a variety of data. Here are some examples:

- Empirical analyses of the formation of expectations and their properties, including their evolution in panel data.
- Empirical analysis of economic decision-making using expectations data.
- Methodological papers examining alternative ways to conceptualize and measure expectations.
- Analyses of anomalies in expectational data such as excessive focal point answers. Methods to handle focal point answers.

Either abstracts or papers can be submitted for consideration. Selection will be made by a committee consisting of Michael Hurd, Charles Manski, Mathew Shapiro, Norbert Schwarz and Robert Willis. The deadline for submission is April 15, 2007. Please send the abstract or completed paper to Michael Hurd (mhurd@rand.org). An abstract should include enough information so that the selection committee can make an informed judgment. The selection will be announced by April 30, 2007.

The conference will take place at Jackson Lake Lodge, Grand Teton National Park, Wyoming on September 7 and 8, 2007. The conference will pay for travel, accommodations and meals for the nights of September 6, 7 and 8 for one author. Should the budget permit, the conference will consider paying for a second author.

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