

Research Interests

Experimental Economics, Behavioral Economics, Game Theory, Neuroeconomics

Employment

Adjunct Lecturer, Rutgers University-Camden, 2025-
Postdoctoral Research Associate, Texas A&M University, 2023-2024

Education

Ph.D. in Economics, Texas A&M University, 2023
B.S. (Honors) in Economics and Finance, University of Arizona, 2017
Magna cum Laude, Minor in Mathematics
Outstanding Senior in Economics

Publications

“Aggregate and Individual Effects of Information in a Coordination (Traffic) Game”
Economic Inquiry (2023) (with Sruthi Ashraf, Alexander L. Brown and Mark W. Burris)
“Using Behavioral Economics to Identify Potential Managed Lane Users”
Transportation Research Record (2022) (with Sruthi Ashraf, Mark W. Burris and Alexander L. Brown)

Working Papers

“Biometric Responses to Unjustified and Justified-Envy in School Choice Allocations”
revise & resubmit, Journal of Econ. Behavior & Org. (with Alexander L. Brown and Marco A. Palma)
The two most prominent strategy-proof school choice mechanisms, Deferred Acceptance and Top Trading Cycles, offer a trade-off between eliminating justified-envy and Pareto efficiency, respectively. We introduce a novel, biometric approach to investigate welfare under each property. Using an experimental design that randomly varies whether subjects learn about others’ assignments in a school choice game, we measure discontentment through galvanic skin response and facial expressions when subjects experience envy with and without justification. We find increased arousal associated with receiving subsequently lower-ranked allocations, i.e., the (unjustified) envy of the allocation(s) of others. Additionally, we note additional arousal when that envy is justified, but that result requires an explicit message to accentuate the justification to subjects. Eye-tracking data confirm that subjects do not notice the property of justified-envy until prompted.

“Contingent Reasoning in Risky Choice”

Decisions under risk that stem from shared rather than mutually independent sources are ubiquitous in financial decision-making. In insurance choice, plans on the menu present positively correlated lotteries. This paper experimentally induces contingent reasoning in choice under risk. Using prize wheels to illustrate the correlation between lotteries, I vary whether subjects sequentially learn the outcomes of states or individual lotteries. Eye-tracking data reveal that experimental treatments altered evaluation procedures. I find causal evidence that statewise comparisons prompt more risk-averse choices. Implications are significant since insurance policy designers can extract surplus from consumers by emphasizing trade-offs between premiums and deductibles.

“Salience in Choice Under Risk: An Experimental Investigation” (with Marco Castillo)

In choosing between lotteries, Bordalo, Gennaioli, and Shleifer (2012) postulate agents overweight states that are more salient. We manipulate the correlation between lotteries to test if changes in behavior predicted by salience obtain. Under highly controlled experimental conditions, and contrary to salience theory, we find mixed evidence that correlation affects choice behavior. Manipulating the choice architecture to make the correlation more apparent reveals unsystematic choice reversals.

“Economic Mobility in Tiered Competitions: On Gender Differences in Competitive Sorting”
(with Marco A. Palma and Brian A. Toney)

We introduce competition tiers to the seminal study of Niederle and Vesterlund (2007) over repeated periods to investigate competitive sorting behavior in a dynamic setting. In this new competitive environment, there is a gender gap in willingness to compete driven by women *Skipping-the-Top* most competitive tier and men *Skipping-the-Bottom* non-competitive tier. Despite receiving feedback that largely corrects beliefs about past relative performance, gender differences in competitive choices persist unless opportunity costs of alternative payment schemes are disclosed independent of compensation choices. Emotional expressions suggest medium and low ability men struggle accepting downward mobility in competitive choices is efficient.

Work in Progress

“Cognitive Ability and Strategic Sophistication in School Choice Games”

“Transparency as a Tool for Promoting Productivity”

Teaching

ECON 102, Principles of Microeconomics, Rutgers University-Camden

ECON 333, Behavioral and Experimental Economics, Rutgers University-Camden

ECON 459, Games and Economic Behavior, Texas A&M University

Professional Memberships

American Economic Association, Economic Science Association

Awards

Raymond C. Battalio Fellowship, Texas A&M University (2022)

College of Liberal Arts Dissertation Research Grant, Texas A&M University (2022)

Skills

o-Tree, z-Tree, Stata, Python, JavaScript, iMotions, Qualtrics