

The ESRC Network for Integrated Behavioural Science is a partnership among the Universities of Nottingham, Warwick, and East Anglia. Visit us online at <http://www.behavioural-science.ac.uk>

Feedback from NIBS 2016 conference

From 4 to 6 April, the University of East Anglia hosted the 2016 NIBS international conference on the topic of 'Assessing well-being when preferences are incoherent'. This was a major event with more than 130 delegates from many parts of the world.

The conference attracted contributions by scholars working in different disciplines, including economics, psychology, public policy, and philosophy which reflected the strong interdisciplinary flavour of the NIBS research agenda. Different views on the topic were presented by eight distinguished keynote speakers.

We also had four equally distinguished round table participants, and 55 speakers distributed across seven parallel sessions. The feedback from participants was uniformly positive, praising the interest of the topic, the quality of the talks, the openness of the discussions, and the efficiency of the organisation.

[Videos of the plenary sessions](#) are available on the NIBS website.

This Year's FUR2016

NIBS supported [FUR2016 – the conference on the Foundations of Utility and Risk](#) which took place at the University of Warwick 27-30 June 2016. This year's edition featured three distinguished keynote speakers, Larry Samuelson (Yale), Elke Weber (Columbia Business School), and Aldo Rustichini (Minnesota); and four round-table discussions on Ambiguity and Learning, Behavioural Game Theory, Imprecision and Noise, and Biological and Neuro-Foundations of Utility and Risk.

Preference & Choice - Berlin 2016

How should we understand the relationships between people's preferences, people's choices, and the values people assign to objects of choice? This was the topic of a recent NIBS mini-workshop, which took place between 18 and 20 April 2016 in Potsdam, Berlin.

Joining NIBS colleagues from Warwick, Nottingham and East Anglia were colleagues from our international partner, the Max Planck Institute for Human Development. The aim was to discuss the nature of preferences and their relation to choice, focusing on identifying, comparing and reconciling the different approaches to understanding preferences that exist both within and across economics and psychology. [Read more on the NIBS blog.](#)

Nottingham hosts Konstanz exchange

In May, the University of Nottingham hosted a visit by students from the University of Konstanz. Post Docs and PhDs from both universities presented on various topics from 'Sustaining Cooperation' to 'Communication and monitoring in the indefinitely repeated prisoner's dilemma.' There was also plenty of time for informal networking and dinner at a local restaurant.

Students on the second year of Nottingham's 'dual masters' programme also joined the visit. These students (currently at Konstanz) had an opportunity to meet their Nottingham supervisors and chat with first year students who will be based in Konstanz next year.

New Papers & Publications

What are the moral consequences of becoming unemployed? **Abigail Barr**, Luis Miller and Paloma Ubeda investigate how becoming unemployed affects people's reasoning in the paper '[Moral Consequences of Becoming Unemployed](#)'.

NIBS Co-Investigator, Dr Abigail Barr explains, "On the whole, people in employment or full-time education believe that people should be allowed to keep much of what they earn and that it is okay for those who work harder or who are more productive to earn more". However the study discovered this changed and, "when people become unemployed, they let go of this belief and put a higher value on the re-distribution of money, which, in everyday life, would mean higher taxes for high earners in order to fund public spending on services and benefits".

The paper, [Intrinsic honesty and the prevalence of rule violations across societies](#) by NIBS Co-Investigator, **Simon Gaechter** and former CeDEx member, Jonathan Schulz was published in *Nature*.

Deception is common in nature and humans are no exception. Modern societies have created institutions to control cheating, but many situations remain where only intrinsic honesty keeps people from cheating and violating rules. Psychological, sociological and economic theories suggest causal pathways to explain how the prevalence of rule violations in people's social environment, such as corruption, tax evasion or political fraud, can compromise individual intrinsic honesty.

In the paper Simon and Jonathan present cross-societal experiments from 23 countries around the world that demonstrate a robust link between the prevalence of rule violations and intrinsic honesty.

Simon spoke about the topic at 'Dysfunctional Organisations' held at the World Bank in Washington. This led to several media articles including coverage in [The Telegraph](#), [The Independent](#), [The Atlantic](#), [This is Money](#) and [Science Magazine](#).

Nick Chater joins Committee on Climate Change (CCC)

Nick Chater, NIBS Co-Investigator and Professor of Behavioural Science at the University of Warwick, is to examine how changing people's behaviour can reduce the UK's carbon emissions, after joining the Committee on Climate Change (CCC).

Professor Chater is an expert in behavioural science and believes one of the biggest challenges in reducing carbon emissions is changing the behaviour and decisions of individuals, managers and even politicians.

Nick says; "I am delighted to be joining this important committee, and having the opportunity to explore how the understanding of human behaviour may be harnessed to help the UK hit its carbon targets over the coming decades".

You can read more about the position and Nick's thoughts in a press release from the [University of Warwick](#).

The CCC is an independent body established under the Climate Change Act to advise the UK Government on reducing greenhouse gas emissions.