

## LASER Seminars - Experimental Methods in Economics

Convenor: Prof. Francesco Guala ([francesco.guala@unimi.it](mailto:francesco.guala@unimi.it))

Four seminars on the 13th, 18th, 20th, and 25<sup>th</sup> of January, at 10.30 in via Pace.

Since the 1980s laboratory experimentation has become a standard methodological tool in economics. This series of seminars is aimed at making students familiar with the logic of experimental reasoning, and to illustrate some paradigmatic designs that are widely used in contemporary behavioural and experimental economics. The first two meetings will be devoted to a general introduction to the logic of experimental design, using the case of public goods games as a reference point. Then we will devote a couple of meetings to read and discuss some key papers on public goods, focusing in particular on their methodological implications.

### Indicative Reading list

#### I. Methodology:

Guala, F. (2012) "Experimentation in Economics", in *Handbook of the Philosophy of Science, Vol. 13: Philosophy of Economics*, edited by Uskali Mäki. Amsterdam: Elsevier, pp. 597-618 only.

Guala, F. (2005) *The Methodology of Experimental Economics*. Cambridge University Press.

Harrison, G. W. and List, J. A. (2004) "Field Experiments," *Journal of Economic Literature* 42: 1009-45.

Schotter, A. (2006) "Strong and Wrong: On the Use of Rational Choice Theory in Experimental Economics", *Journal of Theoretical Politics* 18: 498-511.

Smith, V. L. (1976) "Experimental Economics: Induced Value Theory," *American Economic Review* 66: 274-7.

#### II. Public Goods:

Andreoni, J. (1995). "Cooperation in Public Goods Experiments: Kindness or Confusion?" *American Economic Review*. 85, 891-904.

Burlando, R. and Guala, F. (2005) "Heterogeneous Agents in Public Goods Experiments", *Experimental Economics*, 8, pp. 35-54.

Chaudhuri, A. (2011) "Sustaining Cooperation in Laboratory Public Goods Experiments: A Selective Survey of the Literature." *Experimental Economics* 14(1):47-83.

Fehr, E. and Gächter, S. (2000). "Cooperation and Punishment in Public Goods Experiments." *American Economic Review*. 90, 980-994.

Fischbacher, U., Gächter, S., and Fehr, E. (2001). "Are People Conditionally Cooperative? Evidence from a Public Goods Experiment." *Economics Letters*. 71, 397–404.

Guala, F. (2012) "Reciprocity: Weak or Strong? What Punishment Experiments Do (and Do Not) Demonstrate", *Behavioral and Brain Sciences* 35, pp. 1-59.

Ledyard, J.O. (1995). "Public Goods: A Survey of Experimental Research." In J. Kagel and A. Roth (eds.), *The Handbook of Experimental Economics*. Princeton: Princeton University Press.