

# Biljana Meiske

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**Research Fields:** Behavioral Economics, Experimental Economics, Applied Microeconomics

**Research topics:** Conflict behavior, Discrimination, Social identity, Status

## Education

- 2017-present     **PhD Student in Economics,**  
**Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich &**  
**Max Planck Institute for Tax Law and Public Finance,**  
Expected submission date: March 2021
- 2011-2014     **Master of Science in Economics and Business**  
**Administration, Banking and Finance,**  
University of Zurich, Switzerland  
GPA: 5.31/6
- 2007-2011     **Graduate Diploma in Organizational Sciences**  
Graduate Engineer of Organizational Sciences  
Faculty of Organizational Sciences,  
University Of Belgrade, Serbia  
GPA: 9.66/10
- 2010-2011     Join EU See - Int. Exchange program: University of Turku, Finland

## Ph.D. Committee & References

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## **Working Papers**

### **The influence premium of monetary status** (with Andrea F. M. Martinangeli) (submitted)

The transmission of adaptively valuable behaviours requires individuals who exhibit them to exert greater influence on others' actions. The conferment of status to these individuals, status recognition, and the granting of status privileges are functional to achieving this objective. With the accumulation of material status sources, however, status imperfectly signals underlying ability. We investigate whether the holders of purely monetary status, known to be orthogonal to their underlying ability, nevertheless enjoy greater influence over others' choices. Among a representative sample of the German population, high monetary status grants individuals greater influence over others' actions. This finding does not emerge when status is known to be linked to cognitive ability.

### **Productivity Shocks and Conflict: The Role of Loss Aversion** (submitted)

This paper studies the consequences of productivity shocks on conflict behavior in the presence of loss aversion. In a first step, I incorporate expectation based loss preferences a la Köszegi and Rabin (2006, 2007) into a Hirshleifer-Skaperdas conflict game and show that negative productivity shocks entail higher conflict investments if agents are loss averse (and lower investments if agents are gain-seeking); the reverse holds in case of a positive productivity shock. In a second step, a lab experiment (N=496) was conducted with participants playing repeated guns-and-butter conflict game under changing productivity regimes. The experimental results reveal that while adverse productivity shocks (channeled through loss aversion) have the predicted effects, positive productivity shocks lead to the predicted increase in conflict investment among gain-seeking but fail to reduce conflict investment among loss-averse participants. Furthermore, absent any changes in productivity level, conflict investments are shown to increase in the level of loss aversion.

## **Work in progress**

### **The effects of status perceptions on immigration attitudes**

This work focuses on studying the dynamics of inter-minority relations and attempts to uncover the influence of the minority-group's position in the status-hierarchy of the host country on its members' attitudes towards other minorities. I hypothesize that relative status deprivation, that is the negative difference in status between own ethnic/national group and that of the native majority, has a negative impact on group members' attitudes toward an even lower ranked status group (such as refugees). In order to test these predictions, an online experiment (N=1000) is implemented, where participants with migration background residing in Germany receive either a positive or a negative evaluation of their own ethnic/national in-group, as evaluated by a group of ethnic German participants, while fixing the evaluations of other immigrant groups. Thereafter, multiple attitudinal and one quasi-behavioral measure of position towards immigration of refugees are elicited. I test for the possible channels of the effect, including the change in perceived norm, indirect reciprocity, and preference for equality of treatment.

### **Wins and losses in collective actions: Evidence from the field** (with Raisa Sherif)

Global warming, deforestation, destruction of wildlife, etc. - all represent problems which require coordination on a global level to be successfully resolved. At the same time, they also have their representation on a smaller scale (e.g. on a local level). We study, using a field experiment, whether the experience of participation in a small-scale collective action affects the willingness to contribute in a related but larger collective action. Particularly, we are interested in the motivational and demotivational effects of having achieved a "small win" or having failed to do so, on scaling-up the collective effort, and the relative magnitude of these effects. Furthermore, we investigate whether success (failure) in the smaller scale collective action has heterogeneous effects on participants with different initial propensity to contribute.

## **Presentations**

ESA Global Online Around-the-Clock Meetings (2021); 11th International Conference of the French Association of Experimental Economics (ASFEE) (2021); CRC Summer School 2021: Science-Based Policy Advice (2021); Behavioral Brown Bag Seminar LMU Munich (2019)

## **Experience**

2016-2017	Teaching Assistant at Nuremberg Institute of Technology Subjects: Macroeconomics, Microeconomics, Econometrics
2015-2016	Consultant at PwC Financial Services - Asset Management, Munich
2015 Apr-Jun	Internship in Portfolio Management/Structured Investment Management at “Assenagon”, Munich
2014 Aug-Nov	Internship in Asset Management at “quirin bank”, Berlin
2014 Jul-Aug	Research Assistant at Department for Behavioral Finance, University of Zurich
2012 Jul-Aug	Assistant at Department for Behavioral Finance, University of Zurich

## **Awards and Scholarships**

2011-2012	Awarded governmental scholarship “Dositeja”
2011	Awarded “Student of Generation”, Faculty of Organizational Sciences, University of Belgrade
2008-2011	Awarded governmental scholarships “Dositeja” for the outstanding academic results
2008-2011	Awarded scholarship “Fond Dr. Dragoslav Srejskić” for academic excellence

## **Languages**

• Serbo-Croatian	Native
• English	Fluent
• German	Fluent
• Spanish	Intermediate
• Italian	Intermediate

## **Technical skills**

- STATA, MATLAB, R, VBA
- Z-tree, O-tree, Qualtrics

## **Extracurricular activities**

Since 2018	Refugee Assistance – Volunteering for “Bellevue di Monaco”, refugee assistance and culture center – teaching mathematics and German for school attending refugees
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Last updated: December 04, 2021