

# Mikhail S. Spektor

Assistant professor, Department of Economics and Business, Universitat Pompeu Fabra

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## METRICS

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- 8 peer-reviewed publications
- 97 citations
- h-index: 5
- i10-index: 5

## RESEARCH INTERESTS

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- Decisions under risk and uncertainty
- Learning and decision making
- Context-dependent preferences
- Cognitive modeling

## EDUCATION

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### Dr. phil.

Faculty of Psychology, University of Basel

📍 Basel, Switzerland

📍 Oct 2014–Apr 2018

- Ph.D. program “Social, Economic, and Decision Psychology”.
- Thesis: *Determinants of the context dependency of choices*
- Thesis supervisors: Jörg Rieskamp and Sebastian Gluth
- Thesis committee: Sebastian Gluth, David Kellen, and Jörg Rieskamp (Chair)
- Final grade: *Summa cum laude* (corresponds to a 6 on a 1–6 scale; 6 = best)

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### M.Sc. Psychology

Heidelberg University

📍 Heidelberg, Germany

📍 Aug 2012–Sep 2014

- Thesis: *The effect of credibility on donation behavior*
- Thesis supervisors: Andreas Voss and Israel Waichman
- Final grade: 1.0 (on a 1–6 scale; 1 = best)

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### B.Sc. Psychology

Heidelberg University

📍 Heidelberg, Germany

📍 Aug 2009–Jul 2012

- Thesis: *Measuring intelligence and its components using stochastic diffusion models*
- Thesis supervisors: Andreas Voss and Dirk Hagemann
- Final grade: 1.1 (on a 1–6 scale; 1 = best)

# PROFESSIONAL POSITIONS

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## Assistant professor

Department of Economics and Business, Universitat Pompeu Fabra

 Barcelona, Spain

 since Sep 2019

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## Affiliated professor

Barcelona Graduate School of Economics

 Barcelona, Spain

 since Sep 2019

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## Research fellow

Department of Psychology , University of Freiburg

 Freiburg, Germany

 Jan 2018–Sep 2019

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## Visiting lecturer

Faculty of Psychology, University of Basel

 Basel, Switzerland

 Aug 2018–Jan 2019

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## Research assistant

Faculty of Psychology, University of Basel

 Basel, Switzerland

 Oct 2014–Dec 2017

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# TEACHING

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## Psychology and business

Universitat Pompeu Fabra

 Barcelona, Spain

 2021

Lecture and seminar for undergraduate students (5 ECTS)

Learning objectives: understanding and improving the decision-making process

Topics covered: heuristics and biases, attention and perception, emotions, influence and group decision making, negotiation

[Click here for the syllabus](#)

## Microeconomics II

Universitat Pompeu Fabra

 Barcelona, Spain

 2020, 2021

Lecture for undergraduate students (5 ECTS)

Learning objectives: thinking like an economist and application of theoretical concepts

Topics covered: general equilibrium, welfare economics, monopoly, oligopoly, externalities and public goods

[Click here for the syllabus](#)

## **Behavioral decision making I: Attention, experience, and influence**

### **Universitat Pompeu Fabra**

 Barcelona, Spain

 2020, 2021

Seminar for graduate students (6 ECTS; Taught 50/50 with Gaël Le Mens)

Learning objectives: basic understanding and application of behavioral decision-making theories and models

Topics covered: information search in decisions under uncertainty, experience-based decisions in changing environments, multi-attribute multi-alternative context effects, decision making as a sequential-sampling process, attentional processes involved in decision making

[Click here for the syllabus](#)

## **Data collection, evaluation, and modeling**

### **University of Freiburg**

 Freiburg, Germany

 2019

Seminar for graduate students (4 ECTS)


Learning objectives: basic understanding and application of statistical and cognitive modeling

Topics covered: probability theory, likelihood principle, parameter estimation, model comparison, evidence-accumulation models, signal detection theory, multinomial processing trees, decision-making models, reinforcement learning, Bayesian hypothesis testing and parameter estimation, basics of Stan

[Click here for more information on the course-description website](#)

## **Cognitive modeling: Concepts and applications**

### **University of Basel**

 Basel, Switzerland

 2019

Seminar for graduate students (2 ECTS)


Learning objectives: basic understanding and application of cognitive modeling

Topics covered: probability theory, statistical vs. cognitive models, model development, parameter estimation, model comparison, decision-making models, reinforcement learning, Bayesian parameter estimation

[Click here for more information on the course-description website](#)

## **Experimental project seminar**

### **University of Basel**

 Basel, Switzerland

 2015, 2016, 2017

Supervision of small, one-year long research projects in groups of four undergraduate students (8 ECTS)

Learning objectives: conducting literature research, developing hypotheses, collecting and analyzing data, writing research papers, and presenting the results as a scientific talk or poster

Topics covered: emotions and decision making, learning and decision making, domain-specific risk taking, context-dependent preferences, social learning

[Click here for more information on the course-description website](#)

# SUPERVISION AND ADVISING

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## Ph.D. supervision

Evangelia Spantidaki Kyriazi (2020–ongoing; together with Larbi Aloui)

## Doctoral dissertation defense committee

Daniel Sánchez Moscona (2020)

“Essays on behavioral economics”

Thomas Woiczuk (2020)

“Categories and levels of aggregation: Essays on judgment and decision making”

## Doctoral dissertation proposal committee

Sergio Pirla Lopez (2020)

“Emotions and decision making”

## Master’s and bachelor’s theses

Hannah Seidler (2019)

“Does information search affect the decision process?  
An investigation of the accentuation effect”

Vanessa Kaiser (2019)

“Learning strategies in multi-stage decisions”

Ulrich Lösener (2019)

“Do purely spatial, non-visual relations exist?”

# ADMINISTRATION, SERVICE TO PROFESSION, AND OTHER

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## Conference and workshop organization

**EADM Summer School: “Learning and decision making”** (*postponed due to COVID-19*)

📍 Barcelona, Spain

📅 ????

**JDMx meeting for early-career researchers**

📍 Basel, Switzerland

📅 08–11 Jun 2016

## Invited symposia

**Cognitive modeling in computer science and psychology: Bridging the gap**

📍 Symposium conducted at the KogWis2018, Darmstadt, Germany

📅 05 Sep 2018

## Ad-hoc reviewer

Journal of Experimental Psychology: General

Journal of Experimental Psychology: Learning, Memory, and Cognition

Transportation Research Part B

Computational Brain & Behavior

Frontiers in Psychology

PeerJ

PLOS One

## Other

Liaison lecturer for the Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Freedom

Scientific head of the Digital Study

Counsel at legal tech start-up LEX superior GmbH

Data analyst of the interactive web documentary 51 Sprints

# GRANTS, AWARDS, AND FELLOWSHIPS

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## **Juan de la Cierva fellowship**

📄 50'000 €

📅 2021–2022

## **Consortium for Advanced Studies Abroad fellowship (postponed due to COVID-19)**

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## **Fernandes fellowship (postponed due to COVID-19)**

📅 ????

## **Co-applicant of Fundación BBVA 2019: Economía y Sociedad digital grant**

📄 73'988 €

📅 2020–2021

## **Co-applicant of Ministry of Science, Innovation and Universities: Proyectos I+D+i 2019 grant**

📄 84'700 €

📅 2020–2022

## **Steven Karger prize (award of the Faculty of Psychology, University of Basel)**

📅 2019

## **Conference travel award of the Society for NeuroEconomics**

📅 2019

## **Conference travel grant of the Swiss Academy of Humanities and Social Sciences**

📅 2017

## **Conference participation award (MathPsych/ICCM)**

📅 2017

## **Conference participation award (International Meeting of the Psychonomic Society)**

📅 2016

## **Conference travel grant of the Swiss Academy of Humanities and Social Sciences**

📅 2015

## **Scholarship for pre-doctoral studies (Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Freedom)**

📅 2009–2014

# PUBLICATIONS AND TALKS

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## Peer-reviewed articles

- In press 8 **Spektor, M. S.**, & Wulff, D. U. Myopia drives reckless behavior in response to over-taxation. *Judgment and Decision Making*.
- 7 Voormann, A., **Spektor, M. S.**, & Klauer, K. C. The simultaneous recognition of multiple words: A process analysis. *Memory & Cognition*.
- 2020 6 Kraemer, P., Fontanesi, L., **Spektor, M. S.**, & Gluth, S. Response time models separate single- and dual-process accounts of memory-based decisions. *Psychonomic Bulletin & Review*. doi:10.3758/s13423-020-01794-9
- 2019 5 Fontanesi, L., Gluth, S., **Spektor, M. S.**, & Rieskamp, J. A reinforcement learning diffusion decision model for value-based decisions. *Psychonomic Bulletin & Review*, 26(4), 1099–1121. doi:10.3758/s13423-018-1554-2
- 4 **Spektor, M. S.**, Gluth, S., Fontanesi, L., & Rieskamp, J. How similarity between choice options affects decisions from experience: The accentuation of differences model. *Psychological Review*, 126(1), 52–88. doi:10.1037/rev0000122
- 2018 3 Gluth, S.\*, **Spektor, M. S.\***, & Rieskamp, J. Value-based attentional capture affects multi-alternative decision making. *eLife*, 7, 1–36. doi:10.7554/eLife.39659
- 2 **Spektor, M. S.**, Kellen, D., & Hotaling, J. M. When the good looks bad: An experimental exploration of the repulsion effect. *Psychological Science*, 29(8), 1309–1320. doi:10.1177/0956797618779041
- 1 **Spektor, M. S.**, & Kellen, D. The relative merit of empirical priors in non-identifiable and sloppy models: Applications to models of learning and decision making. *Psychonomic Bulletin & Review*, 25(6), 2047–2068. doi:10.3758/s13423-018-1446-5

## Manuscripts in preparation or submitted for publication

- Submitted 6 **Spektor, M. S.**, Bhatia, S., & Gluth, S. The elusiveness of context effects in decision making.
- 5 **Spektor, M. S.**, Kellen, D., & Klauer, K. C. The repulsion effect in preferential choice and its relation to perceptual choice. *Preprint available on PsyArXiv*: doi:10.31234/osf.io/hmzsx
- 4 **Spektor, M. S.**, & Seidler, H. Irrelevant outcomes lead to violations of economic rationality.
- In preparation 3 **Spektor, M. S.\***, Gluth, S.\*, & Rieskamp, J. Saliency distorts reward processing during reinforcement learning.
- 2 **Spektor, M. S.\***, & Wulff, D. U. Strategic search in decisions from experience.
- 1 Kellen, D.\*, **Spektor, M. S.\***, Rieskamp, J., & Klauer, K. C. Context dependency of loss aversion.

## Other publications

- 2020 1 **Spektor, M. S.**, & Yuan, T. Digitalisierung in der Juristenausbildung. *Neue Juristische Wochenschrift*, 15, 52–88.

## Invited talks

- 2020 6 **Spektor, M. S.** & Wulff, D. U. (2020, July). *Strategic information search in decisions from experience*. Virtual lab meeting at the Department of Psychology, University of Warwick, UK.
- 2019 5 **Spektor, M. S.** (2019, June). *Determinants of the context dependency of choices*. Dissertation competition of the Cognitive Psychology Division of the German Society for Psychology. Willebadessen, Germany.
- 2018 4 **Spektor, M. S.** (2018, December). *Violations of normative decision theory in experience-based decisions*. Research seminar at the Department of Economics.
- 3 **Spektor, M. S.\***, Gluth, S.\* & Rieskamp, J. (2018, September). Implementing value-based attentional capture in a computational process model of cognition. In R. Albrecht & M. S. Spektor (Chairs), *Cognitive Modeling in Computer Science and Psychology: Bridging the Gap*. Symposium conducted at the KogWis 2018. Darmstadt, Germany.
- 2 **Spektor, M. S.** & Wulff, D. U. (2018, March). Information search in decisions from experience. In H. Singmann & T. Pachur (Chairs), *Cognitive Models in Judgment and Decision Making*. Symposium conducted at the Tagung experimentell arbeitender Psychologen. Marburg, Germany.
- 2016 1 **Spektor, M. S.**, Gluth, S., Fontanesi, L. & Rieskamp, J. (2016, March). Independence of irrelevant alternatives in decisions from experience: A challenge for reinforcement learning models. In D. Kellen, H. Singmann & T. Pachur (Chairs), *Cognitive Modeling in Memory and Decision Making*. Symposium conducted at the Tagung experimentell arbeitender Psychologen. Heidelberg, Germany.

## Conference talks

- 2020 7 **Spektor, M. S.**, Kellen, D. & Klauer, K. C. (2020, October). *The repulsion effect in preferential choice*. Virtual Process Tracing Conference 2020.
- 2019 6 **Spektor, M. S.\***, Gluth, S.\* & Rieskamp, J. (2019, October). *Violations of economic rationality in reinforcement learning are driven by a saliency-dependent reward-prediction-error signal in the ventral striatum*. Poster spotlight at the Annual Meeting of the Society for NeuroEconomics. Dublin, Ireland.
- 2017 5 **Spektor, M. S.**, Kellen, D. & Hotaling, J. M. (2017, August). *When the good looks bad: First experimental evidence for the repulsion effect*. Subjective Probability, Utility,
- 4 **Spektor, M. S.** & Kellen, D. (2017, July). *You can't make a silk purse of a sow's ear: On the relative merit of empirical priors in reinforcement learning models*. Annual Meeting of the Society for Mathematical Psychology. Coventry, U.K.
- 3 **Spektor, M. S.\***, Gluth, S.\* & Rieskamp, J. (2017, March). *Value-based attentional capture impairs trinary choice*. Tagung experimentell arbeitender Psychologen. Dresden, Germany.
- 2016 2 **Spektor, M. S.**, Gluth, S., Fontanesi, L. & Rieskamp, J. (2016, August). *Independence of irrelevant alternatives in decisions from experience: A challenge for reinforcement learning models*. Poster spotlight at the Annual Meeting of the Society for NeuroEconomics. Berlin, Germany.
- 1 **Spektor, M. S.\***, Kellen, D.\* & Rieskamp, J. (2016, April). *Context dependency of loss aversion in choice*. The Nature of Preferences and their Relation to Choice. Potsdam, Germany.

\*Equal contribution