

# Mikhail S. Spektor

Assistant Professor, Department of Psychology, University of Warwick

📍 University Road, Coventry, CV4 7AL, United Kingdom    @ mikhail@spektor.ch    🌐 mikhail.spektor.ch  
☎ +44 (024) 765 28588    📄 Google Scholar    in mspektor    📞 0000-0003-0652-1993    🐦 @Mikhail\_Spektor

## METRICS

---

- 14 peer-reviewed publications
- 500 citations
- h-index: 7
- i10-index: 6

## RESEARCH INTERESTS

---

- Decisions under risk and uncertainty
- Learning and decision making
- Context-dependent preferences
- Computational cognitive modeling
- Naturalistic decision making

## EDUCATION

---

### 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*
- Supervisor: Jörg Rieskamp
- Final grade: *Summa cum laude* (corresponds to a 6 on a 1–6 scale; 6 = best)

---

### M.Sc. Psychology

Heidelberg University

📍 Heidelberg, Germany    📅 Aug 2012–Sep 2014

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

---

### B.Sc. Psychology

Heidelberg University

📍 Heidelberg, Germany    📅 Aug 2009–Jul 2012

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

# PROFESSIONAL POSITIONS

---

## Assistant professor

Department of Psychology, University of Warwick

📍 Coventry, UK

📅 since Apr 2022

---

## Guest lecturer

Department of Psychology, University of Mannheim

📍 Mannheim, Germany

📅 Apr 2023–May 2023

---

## Assistant professor

Department of Economics and Business, Universitat Pompeu Fabra

📍 Barcelona, Spain

📅 Sep 2019–Mar 2022

---

## Affiliated professor

Barcelona School of Economics

📍 Barcelona, Spain

📅 Sep 2019–Mar 2022

---

## Research fellow

Department of Psychology , University of Freiburg

📍 Freiburg, Germany

📅 Jan 2018–Sep 2019

---

## Guest lecturer

Faculty of Psychology, University of Basel

📍 Basel, Switzerland

📅 Aug 2018–Jan 2019

---

## Research assistant

Faculty of Psychology, University of Basel

📍 Basel, Switzerland

📅 Oct 2014–Dec 2017

---

# TEACHING (SELECTION)

---

## Fundamentals of judgment and decision making

University of Warwick

📍 Coventry, UK

📅 2023, 2024

Lecture and seminar for undergraduate students (15 CATS; Taught 50/50 with Joyce Zhao)

Learning objectives: overview of the dominant theoretical approaches, main empirical findings, and current topics of interest in the field of judgment and decision making

[Click here for the syllabus](#)

## Negotiation and influence

### University of Warwick

📍 Coventry, UK

📅 2023, 2024

Lecture and seminar for undergraduate students (15 CATS; Taught 50/50 with Thomas Hills)

Learning objectives: learning the art and science of negotiation, communication, conflict resolution, strategic interaction, diplomacy, and behavioral influence

[Click here for the syllabus](#)

## Cognitive foundations of negotiations

### University of Mannheim

📍 Mannheim, Germany

📅 2023

Seminar for graduate students (2 ECTS)

Learning objectives: understanding and improving negotiations

Topics covered: heuristics, attention, negotiation

## Psychology and business

### Universitat Pompeu Fabra

📍 Barcelona, Spain

📅 2021, 2022

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, 2022

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

📅 2018

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](#)

# DOCTORAL SUPERVISION AND ADVISING

---

## Ph.D. supervision

Evangelia Spantidaki Kyriazi (2020–2024; together with Larbi Alaoui)

## Doctoral dissertation defense committee

Katharina Janezic (2021)

“Essays on behavioural economics”

Daniel Sánchez Moscona (2020)

“Essays on behavioral economics”

Thomas Woiczyc (2020)

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

## Doctoral dissertation proposal committee

Daniel Banki (2021)

“Justification aversion: The road to stickier defaults?”

Sergio Pirla Lopez (2020)

“Emotions and decision making”

# SERVICE TO PROFESSION

---

## Conference and workshop organization

### EADM Summer School: “Learning and decision making”

📍 Barcelona, Spain

📅 04–08 Jul 2022

### 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

Psychological Review – Nature Human Behaviour – Management Science – Journal of Experimental Psychology: General – Journal of Experimental Psychology: Learning, Memory, and Cognition – Psychonomic Bulletin & Review – Cognitive Psychology – Cognition – Journal of Mathematical Psychology – eLife – PLoS Computational Biology – Cerebral Cortex – Cognitive, Affective, and Behavioral Neuroscience – Behavior Research Methods – Journal of Behavioral Decision Making – Judgment and Decision Making – Decision – Journal of Choice Modelling – Transportation Research Part B – Computational Brain & Behavior – PeerJ – PLoS ONE – Frontiers in Psychology

## 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

Freelance AI and data science consultant for Codefy GmbH

Data analyst of the interactive web documentary 51 Sprints

## GRANTS, AWARDS, AND FELLOWSHIPS

---

### Co-investigator of Warwick Research Development Fund: Science Development Award

💰 £8,505

📅 2022

### Barcelona GSE Seed Grant

💰 6'000 €

📅 2021

### Juan de la Cierva fellowship

💰 50'000 €

📅 2021–2022

### Consortium for Advanced Studies Abroad fellowship (obtained but declined)

📅 2022

### Fernandes fellowship

📅 2021

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

💰 73'988 €

📅 2020–2022

### Co-investigator 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

---

## Peer-reviewed articles

- 2024 14 Alba, C., Walasek, L., & **Spektor, M. S.** Attention-driven imitation in consumer reviews. *Decision*.
- 13 Olschewski, S. \*, **Spektor, M. S. \***, & Le Mens, G. Frequent winners explain apparent skewness preferences in experience-based decisions. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, 121. doi:10.1073/pnas.2317751121
- 12 **Spektor, M. S. \***, Kellen, D. \*, Rieskamp, J., & Klauer, K. C. Absolute and relative stability of loss aversion across contexts. *Journal of Experimental Psychology: General*, 153(2), 454–472. doi:10.1037/xge0001513
- 2022 11 **Spektor, M. S.**, Kellen, D., & Klauer, K. C. The repulsion effect in preferential choice and its relation to perceptual choice. *Cognition*, 225, 105164. doi:10.1016/j.cognition.2022.105164
- 10 **Spektor, M. S.**, & Seidler, H. Violations of economic rationality due to irrelevant information during learning in decision from experience. *Judgment and Decision Making*, 17(2), 425–448.
- 2021 9 **Spektor, M. S.**, Bhatia, S., & Gluth, S. The elusiveness of context effects in decision making. *Trends in Cognitive Sciences*, 25(10), 844–857. doi:10.1016/j.tics.2021.07.011
- 8 Voormann, Anne, **Spektor, M. S.**, & Klauer, K. C. The simultaneous recognition of multiple words: A process analysis. *Memory & Cognition*, 49(4), 787–802. doi:10.3758/s13421-020-01082-w
- 7 **Spektor, M. S.**, & Wulff, D. U. Myopia drives reckless behavior in response to over-taxation. *Judgment and Decision Making*, 16(1), 114–130.
- 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*, 28(1), 304–323. 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

## Other publication

- 2020 1 **Spektor, M. S.**, & Yuan, T. Digitalisierung in der Juristenausbildung. *Neue Juristische Wochenschrift*, 15, 1043–1048.

\*Equal contribution

## Invited talks

- 2024 18 **Spektor, M. S.** (2024, May). *Panel discussion on the topic of “volition, motivation, action”*. Symposium of the ‘Arbeitsgruppe Philosophie & Psychologie’, Cologne.
- 17 **Spektor, M. S. & Wulff, D. U.** (2024, March). *Strategic information search*. Department of Psychology, University of Bath.
- 2023 16 **Spektor, M. S. & Kellen, D.** (2023a, November). *Testing context*. London Judgment and Decision Making, University College London.
- 15 **Spektor, M. S., Luckman, A., Weiss-Cohen, L., Olschewski, S. & Konstantinidis, E.** (2023, September). *Description or experience? People’s information preferences in risky choice*. Max Planck Institute for Human Development, Berlin.
- 14 **Spektor, M. S. & Kellen, D.** (2023b, July). *Testing context*. Department of Psychology, University of Basel.
- 13 **Spektor, M. S. & Kellen, D.** (2023c, May). *Testing context*. Department of Psychology, University of Mannheim.
- 2022 12 **Spektor, M. S.** (2022, June). *Relative value or recency? Relative value learning meeting*, École Normale Supérieure.
- 11 **Spektor, M. S. & Wulff, D. U.** (2022a, January). *Strategic information search*. Department of Psychology, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.
- 10 **Spektor, M. S. & Wulff, D. U.** (2022b, January). *Strategic information search*. Department of Psychology, University of Hamburg.
- 2021 9 **Spektor, M. S., Bhatia, S. & Gluth, S.** (2021, November). *The elusiveness of context effects in decision making*. IAS Accolade, University of Warwick.
- 8 **Spektor, M. S. & Olschewski, S.** (2021, November). *The frequent-winner effect in experience-based choices*. Department of Psychology, University of Warwick.
- 7 **Spektor, M. S., Kellen, D. & Klauer, K. C.** (2021, October). *Context effects in preferential and perceptual choice*. Decision Research at Warwick (DR@W) Forum.
- 2020 6 **Spektor, M. S. & Wulff, D. U.** (2020, July). *Strategic information search in decisions from experience*. Department of Psychology, University of Warwick.
- 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.
- 2018 4 **Spektor, M. S.** (2018, December). *Violations of normative decision theory in experience-based decisions*. Department of Economics and Business, Universitat Pompeu Fabra.
- 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.
- 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.



- 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.

## Conference talks

- 2024 12 Kellen, D. & **Spektor, M. S.** (2024, July). *Testing context effects: How to have your cake and eat it, too*. Annual Meeting of the Society for Mathematical Psychology. Tilburg.
- 11 **Spektor, M. S.**, Olschewski, S. & Le Mens, G. (2024, April). *Skewness preferences and frequent winners*. Meeting of the Experimental Psychology Society. Nottingham.
- 2023 10 **Spektor, M. S.**, Olschewski, S. & Le Mens, G. (2023, August). *Frequent-winner options and skewness preferences*. Subjective Probability, Utility, and Decision Making Conference. Vienna.
- 9 **Spektor, M. S.**, Kellen, D. & Klauer, K. C. (2023, August). *The repulsion effect: Preferential and perceptual*. Annual Meeting of the European Group of Process Tracing Studies. Vienna.
- 2022 8 **Spektor, M. S.**, Kellen, D. & Klauer, K. C. (2022, July). *Cognitive modeling of multi-attribute preferential and perceptual choices*. Virtual MathPsych 2022.
- 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*. Annual Meeting of the Society for NeuroEconomics. Dublin.
- 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, and Decision Making Conference. Haifa.
- 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.
- 3 **Spektor, M. S.**, Gluth, S. & Rieskamp, J. (2017, March). *Value-based attentional capture impairs trinary choice*. Tagung experimentell arbeitender Psychologen. Dresden.
- 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*. Annual Meeting of the Society for NeuroEconomics. Berlin.
- 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.