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ALBERTO PRATI

Italian Citizenship
27/02/1991

EDUCATION

- 2016-
(exp.06/2020) **AIX-MARSEILLE SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS** (Marseille, FR)
PhD candidate. PhD Thesis: *Memory and Subjective Well-Being. Empirical Analysis of Workers' and Consumers' Endogenous Recall Behaviors.*
Supervisors: O.Chanel; S. Luchini. Jury: C. D'Ambrosio, A. Ferrer-i-Carbonell, N. Jacquemet, E. Proto.
- 2016 **EHESS & PARIS SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS** (Paris, FR)
M.Res. in Economics; program: "Analysis and Policy in Economics" (*Magna cum Laude*)
Master thesis: *Hedonic Recall Bias (Magna cum Laude)*. Supervisor: C. Senik; referee: A. Clark
- 2016 **PARIS 1 PANTHEON-SORBONNE UNIVERSITY** (Paris, FR) – Department of Philosophy
B.A. in Philosophy (*cum Laude*)
- 2013 **PARIS 1 PANTHEON-SORBONNE UNIVERSITY** (Paris, FR) – Department of Economics
B.Sc in Econometrics (*cum Laude*) from *Magistère d'Economie de Paris 1*

Visiting:

- 2020 **LONDON SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS** (London, UK) – Dep. of Psychological and Behavioural Science
(Spring term) Visiting research fellow. Invited by Prof. P.Dolan
- 2018 **WASEDA UNIVERSITY** (Tokyo, JP) – Department of Political Science and Economics
(Summer term) Visiting research fellow. Invited by Prof. Y.Funaki
- 2018 **UNIVERSITY OF BOLOGNA** (Bologna, IT) – Department of Economics
(Spring term) Visiting PhD candidate. Invited by Prof. M. Bigoni
- 2014 **COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY** (NYC, US) – Graduate School of Arts and Science
- 2013 **NEW YORK UNIVERSITY** (NYC, US) – Graduate School of Arts and Science

Summer Schools:

- Sept. 2018 **MUNICH C. FOR MATHEMATICAL PHILOSOPHY** (Irsee, DE) - International Rationality Summer Institute
- July 2017 **TIMBERGEN INSTITUTE & UvA** (Amsterdam, NL) – Summer School in Experimental Economics
- June 2017 **POMPEU FABRA UNIVERSITY** (Barcelona, ES) – 4th Summer School in Survey Methodology

RESEARCH

MAIN RESEARCH DOMAINS: Behavioral economics; experimental economics; labor economics.

MAIN RESEARCH TOPICS: Memory; subjective well-being; moral behavior.

PUBLICATIONS:

Peer-review: "[Hedonic Recall Bias. Why You Should Not Ask People How Much They Earn](#)", *Journal of Economic Behavior & Organization*, Nov. 2017, vol.143, p.78-97.

Others: "The Italian Job - Voting Preference and Information Aggregation in the 2013 Italian General Elections", *Columbia Economics Review*, Fall 2014, vol.IV, n°I, p.23-30.

WORKING PAPERS:

"[Feeling good or feeling better?](#)", with C.Senik. IZA DP No. 13166, 2020.

"[When did it happen? Reconstructing wage evolution in light of current wage satisfaction](#)" AMSE WP #22, 2018.

WORK IN PROGRESS:

“Memory, mood and overconfidence”, with C.Saucet.

“Heterogeneous inflation and subjective well-being”.

“Time preferences for duration”, with M.Bigoni & S.Luchini.

“Is self-serving memory a self-serving theory?”.

“Heteroskedasticity and the weak instrument problem in the Blundell-Powell estimator”, with T. Blanchet & L. Galliana.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- 2017- Affiliante of the **CEPREMAP Well-Being Observatory**, Paris, France.
- 2016- **Teaching Assistant in Econometrics**; undergraduate.
Average teaching evaluations. 2017: 8.3/ 10; 2018: 9.0/10; 2019: -.
Teaching Assistant in Microeconomics; undergraduate.
Average teaching evaluations. 2019: -.
Teaching Assistant in Statistics; undergraduate.
Average teaching evaluations. 2016: 8.1/10; 2018: 7.7/10; 2019: -.
- 2019 Refereeing for: *Revue Economique*.
- 2014-2016 **Research Assistant** for Prof. N. Jacquemet (Paris School of Economics); part time.
- Contribute to drafting some parts of the book *Experimental Economics: Method and Applications*.
- 2015 - 2016 **External Consultant at OECD**, Statistics directorate, HSPM division;
(3 months) - Contribute to the development of a model to nowcast subjective well-being in OECD countries using big data.
- 2015 Trainee at OECD, Statistics directorate, HSPM division. Supervisor: PhD R.Boarini
(8 months) - Conceive and implement a model to forecast current income distribution in OECD countries using macro data.

SKILLS

Languages **Italian:** native language - **French:** fluent – **English:** fluent (TOEFL 109/120) – **Spanish:** basic

IT skills Stata, LaTeX, ztree (lab experiments), Ika (online surveys), IPE (vector graphics).

PRIZES AND FUNDING

- 2019 IFREE's funding to attend the Visiting Workshop in Experimental Economics (Chapman University, Jan.2020).
- 2018 Volkswagen Stiftung's full funding to attend the 2nd International Rationality Summer Institute (Sept. 2018).
- 2014 Scholarship by Columbia University, Columbia's Reid Hall office stipend (Jan. 2014 - Mai 2014).
- 2013 Bilateral exchange-student scholarship Paris 1 University – New York University (Sept. 2013 – Dec. 2013).
- 2011, 2012 Top 2% students in Economics of the Paris 1 University 2010-13 undergraduate program.

REFERENCES

Prof. Olivier Chanel (PhD supervisor)
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Prof. Claudia Senik
Paris School of Economics & Paris-
Sorbonne University
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CONFERENCES, SEMINARS AND WORKSHOPS

- 2020 Oxwell seminar (Oxford University).
- 2019 Wellbeing seminar (London School of Economics); Public-Labor-Health seminar (KU Leuven); EHERO seminar (Erasmus University); EDGE Jamboree (University of Cambridge); BEERS Seminar (GATE Lyon); ADRES conference (AMSE); IDEE meeting (University of Bologna); 16th ACDD (University of Strasbourg), 10th ASFEE meeting (TSE), European ESA meeting (BSB Dijon).
- 2018 Behavior Seminar (Paris School of Economics); WINPEC seminar (Waseda University); 16th ISQOLS Meeting (Hong Kong Polytech); 35th Journées de Microéconomie Appliquée (University of Bordeaux); EHERO Seminar (Erasmus University), 67th Annual Meeting of AFSE (PSE); Internal Seminar (University of Bologna).
- until 2017 CORE seminar (Université Catholique de Louvain); WIP seminar (Paris School of Economics); 10th PhD Italian Workshop in Economics (University of Turin); Wellbeing & Justice in the Social Sciences (EHESS & AMSE); 34th JMA (University of Le Mans); 14th ACDD (University of Strasbourg); European Happiness Days (Erasmus University Rotterdam); OECD-Eurostat Expert Group DNA Meeting (OECD, Paris).

ABSTRACTS

“Feeling good or feeling better?”, with Claudia Senik

When choosing between several alternatives, people try to select the action that they expect will maximize their well-being (utility). These expectations, in turn, are often based on their memory of the outcome of similar actions they took in the past. But can people remember correctly their past well-being? Using panel survey data containing self-reported individual life satisfaction, we uncover systematic biases in recalled subjective well-being: on average, people tend to overstate the improvement in their well-being over time and to understate their past happiness. But this aggregate figure hides a deep asymmetry: while happy people recall the evolution of their life to be better than it was, unhappy ones tend to exaggerate its worsening. It thus seems that feeling happy today implies feeling better than yesterday. These findings are based on three national surveys of the British, German and French population, where more than 50,000 European citizens were asked questions about their past happiness. We compare their answers with their yearly life satisfaction reports. Inconsistencies are widespread and follow a regular pattern, which cannot be solely explained by features of the satisfaction scale. These results offer an explanation of why happy people are more optimistic, perceive risks to be lower and are more open to new experiences.

Keywords: memory; intrapersonal comparisons; life satisfaction.

“When did it happen? Reconstructing wage evolution in light of current wage satisfaction”

Although satisfaction measures strongly depend on personal history, the relationship between memory and current well-being is still unclear. This article is dedicated to empirically investigating if current wage satisfaction affects the ability to date past wage changes. We match answers from a French national survey with administrative records, to compare the recalled and actual wage history. Our data support and extend some previous findings from the psychology literature: relatively remote events are recalled as closer in time, while relatively recent events are recalled as further in time. An instrumental variable strategy shows that these effects – respectively known as “forward” and “backward telescoping” – are partially caused by current satisfaction, so that, *ceteris paribus*, people who are satisfied with their wage tend to date wage cuts as more remote than they actually are. We suggest that this pattern of imperfect recall, which we denote as *hedonic telescoping*, opens a new perspective in the understanding of the transient effect of income changes on well-being.

Keywords: wage satisfaction; memory; telescoping effect.

“Memory, mood and overconfidence”, with Charlotte Saucet

Why are people overconfident in spite of the negative feedback they receive? Psychology and economic studies have put forward the role of biased memory. Individuals tend to better recall positive feedback than negative feedback. The typical explanation for this asymmetry is the self-enhancement effect: people prioritize positive information to enhance their self-image. An alternative explanation is the mood-congruency effect: positive information is easier to recall for individuals in non-negative mood. In a laboratory experiment where we exogenously manipulate mood, we test the existence and the relative dominance of these two effects. Our results support the self-enhancement hypothesis: individuals better recall positive than negative feedback, even when they are in a negative mood. When they do not recall, they exhibit overly optimistic recall of past feedback, regardless of their mood. Conversely, we find no clear evidence of mood congruency. These results suggest that mood does not impact recall accuracy of self-relevant information, and overconfident behaviors can be alleviated by intervening on individuals’ beliefs.

Keywords: selective recall; feedback; experiment.
