

Essays on conflicts and contests

An important strand of economic literature investigates conflicts and contests among individuals or groups (political conflicts, competition between firms, team performance etc.). The topic proposes to study several possible research directions in this field. Topics such as endogenous formation of coalitions in group contests, conflict mediation or effect of fake news belong among potential research questions. The research method involves laboratory experiments. The student will have access to the infrastructure of Masaryk University Experimental Economics Laboratory. Part of the research can be funded through ongoing GACR project.

Essays on procedural preferences

Different institutions and procedures are used to allocate payoffs among individuals. Recent economic research shows that individuals value institutions and procedures for their intrinsic value, i.e., they reveal preferences for procedural properties such as decision autonomy that are unrelated to payoffs or outcomes. An important dimension of procedural preferences seems to be the perception of responsibility (or merit). The topic proposes to design experiments that elicit procedural preferences in different contexts and test the conjecture that people prefer procedures that undervalue the payoffs of those who are responsible for harm and overvalue payoffs of meritorious individuals. The research method involves laboratory experiments. The student will have access to the infrastructure of Masaryk University Experimental Economics Laboratory.

Nudging experiment in health economics

A crucial problem in health economics and health policy is patients' low investment in preventive health care. Present-bias preferences and limited information have frequently been put forth as a theoretical explanation for this. The topic proposes to conduct a field experiment testing different advertising strategies to increase demand for preventive health care. The advertising strategies include monetary payments, information provision or different framing of the advertising statement. The research method is field experiment. The research is a part of a submitted Exceles research project and can be funded from the research scheme.