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Placement Officer Contact Information

Professor Alberto Secchi
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Personal Information: October 11, 1992; Male (he/him); French

Undergraduate Studies

B.A., Management, Toulouse Business School, honors, 2012 - 2013
B.A., Philosophy, Aix-Marseille University, 2013 - 2015
M.A., Economics, Aix-Marseille University, 2013 - 2015
M.Sc., Philosophy of Science, London School of Economics, 2017

Graduate Studies

Economics:

Paris School of Economics, 2017 to present
Princeton University, Department of Economics, Visiting Ph.D. Student, 2018-2020
Leave of absence 2020-2021 (health reasons)
Ph.D. Candidate in Economics
Thesis Title: "Essays in Experimental, Theory, and Behavioral Economics"
Expected Completion Date: Spring 2023
Thesis advisor: Jean-Marc Tallon

Philosophy:

Panthéon-Sorbonne University, 2017 to present
Leave of absence 2020-2021 (health reasons)
Ph.D. Candidate in Philosophy
Thesis Title: "Operationalizing Moral Uncertainty";
Expected Completion Date: December 2022

References:

Professor Jean-Marc Tallon

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Professor Nicolas Jacquemet

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Teaching and Research Fields:

Primary fields: Experimental and Behavioral Economics

Secondary fields: Microeconomics, Climate Economics, Economics of Science and Knowledge

Coding Languages

Stata, R, *Qualtrics*, Python, Julia, JavaScript, HTML

Teaching Experience:

- Summer, 2018 Introduction to Social Sciences (Undergraduate), Sciences Po, School of Public Affairs, teacher
- Spring, 2018 Economics of Culture (Graduate), Sciences Po, School of Public Affairs, teaching fellow for Professor Françoise Benhamou
- Spring, 2018 Mathematics for Economics (Undergraduate, Paris 1, Dept. of Economics), teaching fellow for Professor Nicolas Canry
- Fall, 2017 Introduction to Economics (Undergraduate, Paris 1, Dept. of Economics), teaching fellow for Professor Nicolas Canry
- Fall, 2017 MOOC on Entrepreneurship, Innovation and Culture, Sciences Po, teaching fellow for Professor Françoise Benhamou

Research Experience and Other Employment:

- Fall 2021 **Ecole Polytechnique and ENSAE**, Department of Economics, Ph.D. Student
Reference: Assistant Professor Yves Le Youanq
- 2019 – 2020 **Princeton University**, Department of Economics and Kahneman Treisman Center, Visiting Ph.D. Student
Reference: Professor Roland Bénabou
- 2018 – 2019 **Princeton University**, Department of Economics and School of Public & International Affairs
Reference: Professor Marc Fleurbaey
- Fall 2019 **Brookings Institute**, Visiting Ph.D. Researcher
Reference: Professor Carol Graham
- Summer 2019 **Oxford University**, Global Priority Institute, Visiting Ph.D. Student
Reference: Assistant Director, Rossa O'Keeffe O'Donovan
- Summer 2018 **Hebrew University of Jerusalem**, The Federmann Center for Rationality
Reference: Professor Sergiu Hart
- Summer 2017 **Australian National University**, Research School of Social Sciences
References: Katie Steele and Seth Lazar

Professional Activities

- Talks MIT (2021), Bologna (2021), USCB (2021); Pennsylvania University (2019), Brookings Institution (2019), Oxford University (2019 x6), Woodrow Wilson, Princeton University (2018 x2).
- Organizer Co-Organizer “Philosophy and Economics Weekly Seminar”, Princeton School of International and Public Affairs, 2018-2020 (with Marc Fleurbaey).

Grants

- 2022 Effective Ventures, Major Grant for Economics of Science, AI and Innovation for Global Education
- 2022 Effective Ventures, Major Grant for E.A. Economics Community-Building Project
- 2020 Forethought Foundation, Major Research Grant for the Economic Philosophy and Economics of Worldviews Uncertainty
- 2020 Princeton University, Experimental Laboratory for Social Sciences Grant for A Two-Ball Ellsberg Paradox (co-awarded with Simon Lazarus)

2019 Princeton University, Survey Research Center Exploration Grant for The Normative Uncertainty

Honors, Scholarships and Fellowships

2021 – 2022 Fondation de l'École Polytechnique X, Ph.D. Excellence Scholarship
2018 – 2020 Forethought Foundation, Global Priority Fellowship for both Ph.Ds.
2018 – 2020 Paris School of Economics, Excellence Mobility Scholarship for Princeton Visiting
2018 – 2020 Panthéon-Sorbonne, College Excellence Mobility Scholarship for Princeton Visiting
2017 – 2020 Gulbenkian Foundation, Global Ph.D. Excellence Fellowship for Philosophy Ph.D.

Research Papers

“*A Two-Ball Ellsberg Paradox: An Experiment*”, with Simon Lazarus ([Job Market Paper](#))

We conduct an incentivized experiment on a nationally representative US sample (N=708) to test whether people prefer to avoid ambiguity even when it means choosing dominated options. In contrast to the literature, we find that subjects prefer risky acts to ambiguous acts even when the latter always provides larger probabilities of winning. Our experimental design shows that such behavior is not mainly due to a lack of understanding and is, to a large extent, deliberate. Such behavior cannot be reconciled with existing models of ambiguity aversion in a straightforward manner. We conclude that subjects avoid ambiguity *per se* rather than avoiding ambiguity because it may yield a worse outcome.

“*Critical Thinking and Stable Preferences: Theory and Experiment*”, with Elia Sartori

We build a simple but flexible behavioral model to measure the gain in surveys and the election's efficiency in becoming aware that the issue is ambivalent. We conduct an incentivized experiment on a representative US population (N=706) to test whether different textual and graphics formats in which knowledge is presented prompt agents into critical thinking. We find that such formats affect the transition into critical thinking and that the effect is driven by individuals' cognitive styles.

“*Inequality Aversion With Worldview Uncertainty: Theory and Application to Climate Policies*”, with Marc Fleurbaey

We propose a welfare framework where a principal implements redistributive economic policies with heterogeneous worldviews about welfare and internal uncertainty over them: *Global Social Welfare*. Such a model is based on an axiom of minimal comparability of worldviews that allows the endogenization of heterogeneous worldviews and internal uncertainty over them. We apply our framework to long-term climate policies. We introduce a new, operational, climate-macroeconomic model: Nested Inequalities Climate-Economy with Risk, Endogenized Heterogeneous Worldviews, and Subjective Beliefs (NICER-EHWB). We provide macroeconomic simulations of our model and calibrate its parameters using survey data from a representative US population.

Other Writing: Philosophy & Interdisciplinary Research

“*Decision under Normative Uncertainty*”, w/ Franz Dietrich, *Economics and Philosophy*, 2021

“*The Risk Attitude under Normative Uncertainty*”, w/ Franz Dietrich, working paper

“*The Axiomatic Foundations of Normative Uncertainty*”, w/ Franz Dietrich, working paper

“*The Normative Uncertainty Survey: Design and Evidence*”

“*Testing Normative Uncertainty*”, w/ Franz Dietrich and Marc Fleurbaey, working paper

“*A Two-Ball Ellsberg Paradox: A Thought Experiment*”, invited piece for *PEA Soup*, 2019