

Behavioural Economics: Science, Philosophy, and Policy-Making

October 17-18, 2013
Trento | Italy

Call for Papers

Behavioural economists over the last decade have promoted a new approach to policy-making, informed by the discovery that individual decisions can be heavily influenced by psychological biases and irrelevant contextual factors. This approach aims at improving individual and collective outcomes at low cost, without interfering with the values and freedoms of individual citizens. Although "libertarian-paternalistic" policies have been endorsed by regulators in several countries, a number of critics argue that they lack sound theoretical and philosophical foundations. The Bruno Kessler Foundation, in collaboration with the University of Trento, is organizing an interdisciplinary conference devoted to assess the scientific basis, philosophical presuppositions, and policy applications of behavioural economics. The conference will bring together economists, psychologists, political scientists, philosophers, and policy-makers interested in these topics.

Topics

We are looking for proposals on any topic that falls broadly within the following areas:

- framing and its influence on decisions
- the concept of preference and the concept of bias
- calculating and modelling the costs of decision
- the influence of social norms and the problems they raise for policy-making
- the ethics of using incentives to manipulate behaviour
- the problem of defining externalities
- nudging and choice architecture
- the notions of paternalism and libertarianism
- the costs of implementing Nudge policies
- the implications of neuroscience for choice, freedom and determinism
- the concepts of welfare, happiness and hedonism
- the relation between politics and policy design

Empirical, theoretical, and philosophical contributions are welcome. Abstracts (max 250 words) should be sent to dcappelletti@fbk.eu

Plenary Speakers

Luc Bovens, London School of Economics
George Loewenstein, Carnegie-Mellon University
Samuel Nguyen, Behavioural Insight Team – UK Cabinet Office

Important Dates

Submission deadline: **September 8, 2013**
Notification due: **September 15, 2013**
Registration deadline: **September 29, 2013**

Organizers

Organizing Committee

Luigi Mittone
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Contacts

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