# PhD Workshops:

# Topic in Economic Theory
# *and*
# Experimental Economics

Duarte Gonçalves

University College London

# Topics in Economic Theory

**Part 1: Duarte Gonçalves**

Term 1: Monday 9:00-11:00, DH 321.

Stopping, Searching, and Learning

**Part 2: Ran Spiegler**

Term 2: 14 Jan – 11 Feb 2026. Wednesday 9:00-11:00 (TBC).

Contracting with loss-averse consumers

The use of complexity in contract design

Incentive and information design with misspecified models

Contracting with dynamically inconsistent consumers

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IO: Browsing (and implications for pricing). Regulation with naive consumers.

Macro: Job search.

Finance: Herd behaviour.

Econometrics: Discretionarily stopping data collection & implications on inference.

More: dynamics of strategic interaction (firms pricing, fund managers investing, ...)

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**For whom?** Anyone interested in

  - doing theory (micro, macro, metrics) or experimental;

  - importing insights from theory to empirical or experimental work.

Term 1 only: Weekly (randomly assigned) paper presentations. Term project.

Go to one or both terms.

# Experimental Economics

**Part 1: Michael Thaler**

Term 1: Tuesday 13:30-15:15 (TBC).

Social motives (altruism, fairness, and efficiency), attitudes towards risk and uncertainty, and intertemporal trade-offs.

**Part 2: Duarte Gonçalves**

Term 2: Tuesday 9:00-11:00, DH B03 Ricardo LT.

how people actually acquire and use information;

how we can obtain and what we can learn from process data (e.g., time and attention);

what it means when choices appear inattentive or noisy;

how complexity affects decision-making.

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how complexity affects decision-making.

**For whom?** Anyone interested in

- doing experimental work or theory;
- importing insights from experimental methodologies to field work.

Both term 1 and 2: project presentations.

Go to one or both terms.

## Topics in Economic Theory: Term 1

1. Stopping and Choosing: Stopping rules and monotone problems. Job Search. Satisficing. Diamond's Paradox.
   Lecture(s): 29 September, 6 October.

2. Searching: Pandora's Problem and Optimal Search. Martingales and etc. Gittins-Jones Index. Pricing with Pandora Consumers.
   Lecture(s): 13, 20 October.

3. Social Learning: Cascades and Herds. Fads.
   Lecture(s): 27 October.

4. Knowing: Knowledge and Common Knowledge. Common Prior Assumption and No-Trade Theorem. Universal Type Space. Learning and Common Learning.
   Lecture(s): 3, 10 November.

5. Learning in Games: Fictitious Play and Best-Response Dynamics. Potential and Supermodular Games. Evolutionary Game Theory. Other Models of Learning in Games: Berk-Nash Equilibrium and Sequential Sampling Equilibrium.
   Lecture(s): 17, 24 November.

6. Project Presentations.
   Lecture(s): 1, 8 December.

# Topics in Economic Theory: Term 1

**Workload:** Required of everyone.

Paper Presentations: On a weekly basis, every member of the class will be required to work in a group of at most 3 people to prepare a **15 minute** presentation on an assigned paper.
One group will be selected at random to give the presentation at the start of the class.

Project Presentations: Last two lectures are going to be on a new research project related to class materials.
Allowed to work in groups of at most 3 people.
Motivation, model sketch, target results, proof intuition if available/design/data + discussion

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**Introductions:** name, year, research interests, anything else you'd like to add.

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