The European Association for Decision Making

Newsletter

Autumn 2026

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The GenAI Paradox: Academics in Search of Meaning, Rigour, and Balance

Mandeep K Dhami - Professor in Psychology, Middlesex University, London, UK

As decision scientists, we spend our careers studying how people handle uncertainty, risk, and trade-offs. Now we find ourselves inside the experiment. Generative AI (GenAI) appears to be restructuring how we produce, review, and reward scholarship. It is forcing uncomfortable questions about the value of our work and perhaps even our own value.

Even as a Full Professor, I view the GenAI landscape with weariness rather than comfort. Academics routinely sacrifice work-life balance, and when we retire, we want to feel those decades were worth it. GenAI may offer a utopian alternative: automating the administrative grind and writing bottlenecks could give us our lives back. But relief brings a paradox. If the struggle is removed, does the work become less meaningful? If an algorithm can generate hypotheses, analyse data, and draft papers overnight, we risk trading time-poverty for an existential vacuum, losing personal ownership of our science and the sense of purpose that comes from human intellectual effort.

As co-Editor of *Judgment and Decision Making*, an Expert Evaluator for the European Commission, and a Panel Member for the European Research Council, I am acutely aware of how strained our evaluation systems have become. GenAI appears to be contributing to unprecedented volumes of submissions, highlighting

the clear limitations of our human administrative and academic capacity to manage them.



Photographer: Mandeep K. Dhami

The risks of GenAI in academia differ by career stage. For senior colleagues, GenAI threatens collective trust in the scientific process. These tools can generate false findings and fabricated references in an authoritative, confident tone, and unchecked outputs can distort decades of careful research. Vigilant use is possible, but it cannot be assumed.

Early Career Researchers (ECRs), meanwhile, gain cheap and efficient routes to scholarly production. For many, these tools level the playing field by lowering resource and language barriers. Yet if everyone adopts them, output inflates, career milestones become less stable, and ECRs are caught in a hyper-competitive loop. This is a collective action problem.

Through a judgment and decision-making lens, we may be witnessing a clash of risk perceptions under bounded rationality. Senior faculty, perhaps driven by loss aversion, may seek to protect their legacies and established standards. Junior faculty may be pushed into risk-seeking adoption simply to survive the job market. And when overloaded editors, reviewers, and evaluators rely on heuristics, do systematic biases creep in? These are empirical questions, and we are well placed to study them.

We should champion a redefinition of academic merit: moving from counting outputs to valuing intellectual curiosity, methodological rigour, and a desire to answer the (really) big questions. In a GenAI-assisted workflow, rigour means being transparent about how tools were used and how their outputs were verified, so that others can replicate and trust the work.

I believe the future of decision science ought to be shaped by deliberate human judgment, not algorithmic volume. When we look back on our careers, I hope we can say that our work had rigour, our lives had balance, and our journey had meaning.

EADM Awards Call for Nominations

1. The de Finetti Award for outstanding work by PhD student researchers

2. The Jane Beattie Scientific Recognition award for early career faculty

3. The EADM Lifetime contribution award

Nomination deadline for all awards: Tuesday, December 1st, 2026, at noon (CET).

de Finetti Award

The European Association for Decision Making's de Finetti Award has, since 1995, recognized outstanding research by PhD students in the area of decision making. The winner will receive a prize of 750 Euros and a certificate and will be asked to make a presentation at SPUDM 2027.

Eligibility is limited to PhD students who had not completed their PhD by the time of the last SPUDM conference (i.e., September 2025). The student must be the sole or first author, and the work should primarily represent the student's contribution. For co-authored papers, a signed statement (PDF) from the co-author(s) is required, confirming that the student is the primary source of ideas and the main author of this paper. Both published and unpublished papers are eligible for submission. However, dissertation format will not be considered, though articles based on a dissertation are encouraged. Each applicant may submit only one paper

Submission requirements: **(a)** The paper, **(b)** a statement (400 words or less) outlining the candidate's academic status and containing a brief summary of the scientific contribution of the submitted paper, **(c)** a letter from co-authors (if applicable)

Please send to: **Olga kostopoulou**, o.kostopoulou@imperial.ac.uk

Jane Beattie Scientific Recognition award

In 2006, EADM created the Jane Beattie Scientific Recognition Award to honour the memory of our late colleague, Jane Beattie. The award is intended for researchers who have recently completed the first stages of their careers –defined operationally by those who are 5 to 10 years post-PhD. The award will be for a research paper that deals with the topic of decision making as broadly understood within the SPUDM tradition. The award is bestowed in recognition of "innovation in decision research", as broadly understood within the SPUDM tradition. To be eligible for this award, candidates must have completed their PhDs no sooner than 5 years before the end of the most recent SPUDM meeting and no more than 10 years before the same date.

Winners will receive a prize of 1,000 euros, a certificate, and be asked to make a presentation of their research at SPUDM.

Submission requirements: **(a)** a statement of 500 words or less that makes the case for the candidate's innovation, **(b)** one paper in which the innovation is presented for a scientific audience, and **(c)** a copy of the candidate's curriculum vitae. **(d)** Candidates should also provide a statement as to when, and from where they received their PhDs.

Please send to: **Mandeep Dhami**, m.dhami@mdx.ac.uk

EADM Lifetime contribution award

The EADM Lifetime Contribution Award is bestowed in recognition of lifetime contribution which is broadly considered as: Contribution to the decision-making community by "exceptional service to the community of decision-making researchers", as broadly understood within the EADM tradition. This includes, but is not limited to the mentoring and supervising students and early career scholars who have proceeded to have independent, successful careers in the field; valorization of own or others research to have positive impact beyond the field (including other fields and/or policy and practice); and making a sustained and enduring contribution to EADM (e.g., through organization of EADM-related events including SPUDM and service to the JDM journal).

Eligible candidates need to be 20 years or more post-PhD and to have presented in SPUDM or other EADM events at least three times during the past 15 years.

Winners will receive a lifetime (free) membership in EADM, a certificate, and will be asked to make a presentation of their research or a historical perspective at SPUDM.
Importantly: Nomination is by the candidate or by another person on their behalf.

Submission requirements: For self-submissions, please send your CV and a 1-2 pages (maximum) justification letter. To submit the candidacy of another person please send just a 1-2 pages (maximum) nomination letter.

Please send to: **Josh Weller**, j.weller@leeds.ac.uk

JDM Welcomes a New Co-Editor

We are thrilled to welcome Rachel Croson, a McKnight Presidential Endowed Professor of Economics at the University of Minnesota, as the new co-editor of Judgment and Decision Making (JDM). Rachel officially began her term in summer of 2026. An esteemed scholar with expertise in experimental and behavioural economics, she brings a wealth of editorial and academic leadership to the journal. In this role, she works alongside current co-editors Mandeep Dhami and Andreas Glöckner, who bring expertise in cognitive, social and applied psychology to the editorial team.

At the same time, we extend our heartfelt gratitude to Founding Editor Jon Baron, whose vision and tireless dedication have shaped JDM since its inception in 2006. While Jon is stepping back from his role as Editor-in-Chief, we are incredibly fortunate that he will remain a vital part of the leadership team as an Associate Editor, ensuring his foundational impact on the field continues to guide the journal.

Finally, just to remind EADM members that JDM is your journal and we welcome your submissions as well as your assistance in reviewing manuscripts. Together, we shape the field.

SPUDM 2027

The 2027 Subjective Probability, Utility and Decision Making (SPUDM) Conference will be held at the St. Raphael beach resort in Limassol, Cyprus. The conference will open on the afternoon of Wednesday, September 1, and conclude on Sunday, September 5. The program will feature regular and flash talks, keynote lectures by Thorsten Pachur, Elke Weber and Nils Köbis, symposia, poster exhibitions, and social activities including a Tavern-style dinner event.

More information on the conference is provided at https://cyprusconferences.org/spudm2027/

The submission portal is now opened and will close on February 14th, 2027 (PST). SPUDM is the biennial conference of the European Association of Decision Making and welcomes submissions from all fields of judgment and decision making, including Psychology, Economics, Management, Health, Law, and related disciplines.

The 2027 meetings are organized by the University of Limassol (UoL) and we look forward to welcoming researchers from across the world to Limassol.

Best wishes,

Doron Sonsino

Chair of the Conference Committee

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SPUDM 2027 Venue

St. Raphael Resort, Limassol Cyprus

Updates from Recent Events

Decision Making across the Lifespan: Judgments and Preferences

On October 12 and 13, 2026, Tilburg University's campus welcomed around 50 attendees for a 2-day workshop conference on the topic of "Decision Making across the Lifespan." The workshop, free to its attendees, had been co-funded through IAREP, EADM, and Tilburg University.





Keynote lecture by Josh Weller

The organizers had formed a multi-national team: **Drs. Julia Nolte** (Tilburg University), **Salima Douhou** (Centerdata; Munich Research Institute for the Economics of Ageing), **Sebastian Horn** (University of Zurich), and **Yaeji Kim-Knauss** (FAU University Erlangen-Nuremberg). Correspondingly, the event drew interest from across Europe and beyond – specifically, from Belgium, Croatia, the Czech Republic, England, Estonia, Georgia, Germany, Hungary, India, Italy, Lithuania, the Netherlands, North

Macedonia, Pakistan, Poland, Portugal, Scottland, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, the US, and Uzbekistan.

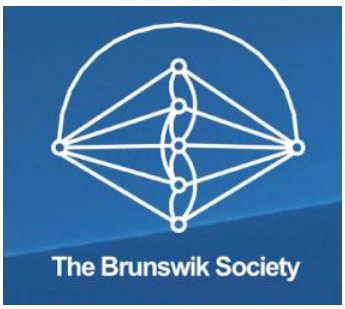
The conference spanned keynote lectures by **Dr. Joshua Weller** (Leeds University Business School) and Dr. **Pär Bjälkebring** (University of Gothenburg). In addition, participants contributed 20 talks and 10 posters on topics such as “Economic Decision Preferences,” “Financial Decision Making,” and “Panel Studies and Large Datasets”. Finally, attendees participated in two workshops dedicated to “data harmonization” that sought to encourage future collaborations and cross-laboratory coordination efforts.



Keynote lecture by Pär Bjälkebring

The 32nd International (Virtual) Meeting of the Brunswik Society

The Brunswik Society will hold a virtual international meeting on **Friday, December 4th, 2026**. This scholarly event is free!



This meeting focuses on any theoretical or empirical (basic or applied) topic related to Egon Brunswik's theory of probabilistic functionalism, lens model framework, or method of representative design. This includes recent expansions to topics such as ecological rationality. Research focusing on Ken Hammond's contributions to the Brunswikian tradition are also encouraged (e.g., multi-cue probability learning, inter-personal learning, inter-personal conflict, cognitive continuum theory). In addition, we would be interested in hearing about connections between the above ideas and other perspectives as well as incorporating Brunswikian ideas to a digital world. We encourage participation from scholars at every stage of their career, from student to emeritus.

Anticipated Format: Short presentations, Q&A, and group discussion. We also plan a social hour on a more interactive platform, which would start 15 minutes after the end of the meeting. This is a great opportunity to catch up and network.

If you wish to attend and listen and/or contribute to the open discussions, then please register your name, affiliation, and email address with Gijs Holleman: g.a.holleman@tilburguniversity.edu by Tuesday 1st December 2026 in order to receive the Zoom meeting link.

If you have any questions, please contact one of the meeting organizers:

Mandeep Dhami (m.dhami@mdx.ac.uk)

Gijs Holleman (g.a.holleman@tilburguniversity.edu)

Esther Kaufmann (esther.kaufmann@gmx.ch)

The 30th meeting of The European Group of Process Tracing Studies

The 30th meeting of The European Group of Process Tracing Studies (EGPROC) took place at the University of Warwick on the 16th and 17th of July. This event was supported by the funding from European Association for Decision-Making and Behaviour Spotlight (link), and it was co-hosted by the Psychology department and Warwick Business School.

We had a great line-up of speakers and posters with a good mix of attendees from the UK, Germany, Austria, Poland, and Finland. This year's topics included new research on sequential decision-making, attention, verbal protocols, facial expressions, and strategy selection. Presentations also included showcases of new software, including WebTrace for dynamic web-based research (link), and Carrier for process tracing interactive studies with humans and LLMs (link). A highlight of the event was the keynote by Prof. Daniel Read who shared some of his fascinating work on the cross-modal preferences and attention.



We attach a group photo (notice how everyone is smiling!) and encourage our colleagues to consider attending EGPROC in the future. News on next year's location will be advertised soon!

Lukasz, Tim and Cher

Recent Publications in Judgment and Decision Making

- An extended peer-reviewed version of the Presidential Address by Mandeep K. Dhami at SPUDM 2025 is published: Dhami, M. K. (2026). Judges, justice, and power: Reorienting decision science. *Judgment and Decision Making*, *21*, e28. https://doi:10.1017/jdm.2026.10052

- Matteo Maria Cati, PhD Candidate in Health Economics and Policy at Lancaster University, recently presented his research on emotionally and ethically informed randomized controlled trials at the 2026 Economic Science Association World Meeting in Los Angeles and the ESA European Meeting in Barcelona. This research examines how perceived fairness, trust, and institutional legitimacy may influence participant retention and, consequently, the validity of experimental estimates. His article, "Integrating emotional and cognitive biases in graded decision-making models: Insights from a theoretical case study in healthcare," was published in Acta Psychologica (2025, Volume 261, Article 105915): https://doi.org/10.1016/j.actpsy.2025.105915. His article, "Why health diplomacy should be understood as a deterrence instrument: evidence from Sweden's health system," was also published in Globalization and Health (2026, Volume 22, Article 51): https://doi.org/10.1186/s12992-026-01210-2. He is currently developing a broader behavioral framework connecting emotional feedback, trust, cooperation, and deterrence in health economics and policy.

Do you have input for future news bulletins? Do you want to get involved and help EADM in its activities? Feel free to reach out: secretary@eadm.eu.