

2nd EADM JDM Summer School Report

The 2nd Judgment and Decision Making (JDM) Summer School of the EADM took place at the Max Planck Institute for Research on Collective Goods between the 15 and 22rd of August 2014. Dr. Susann Fiedler (MPI Bonn), Prof. Andreas Glöckner (University of Göttingen), and Shaul Shalvi (Ben-Gurion University) organized the summer school. Twenty-eight PhD students interested in topics of judgment and decision making from various countries (Germany, Netherlands, Switzerland, Austria, Sweden, Spain, UK, Israel, US) attended the 8 day long program of courses covering issues of methodology in JDM research as well as applied topics with a particular focus on social and moral decision making. The program included hands on courses on Bayesian statistics by Dr. Benjamin Scheibehenne (University Basel), cognitive modelling by Prof. Andreas Glöckner, current methodological debates by Dr. Frank Renkewitz (University Erfurt) and eye-tracking by Dr. Susann Fiedler. Further courses covered important current issues of social and anti-social decision making by Prof. Carsten de Dreu (University of Amsterdam) and Prof. Shaul Shalvi.

Additionally to the coursework, students attended several keynote talks, designed own research projects in small working groups, and had the possibility to interact with leading experts in the field. Dr. Mirta Galesic (MPI Berlin) gave an interesting overview over her current work on social sampling and its potential to explain apparent biases in judgments of social environments. An exploration into the metaphors of the adaptive decision making was presented by Prof. Arndt Bröder (University Mannheim) that discussed the differences between the toolbox and adjustable spanners idea. In a fascinating talk by Prof. David Budescu (Fordham University) the students learned about current work on prediction and revisited the “wisdom of crowds” from a new theoretical and empirical perspective. Prof. Stefan Schulz-Hardt (University of Göttingen) presented in his talk research on how well groups make decisions and discussed the question of “Where is the synergy?” in the area of group decision making in hidden profile situations, while Prof. Michael Waldmann (University of Göttingen) presented his current work on the structure induction in diagnostic causal reasoning.

Using all of the newly gained insights and their individual expertise in the various subfields of JDM the participants developed interesting research ideas and corresponding designs in small working groups. These projects were presented at the end of the summer school and each group received over the course of the week feedback from the individual guest lectures and keynote speakers. Some of the project ideas were so promising that the students implemented them after the summer school and established cooperation of young researchers from various countries beyond the time of the summer school.

Besides learning about a wide range of topics currently important in JDM research the summer school aimed also to inform students about the EADM society and suggestions for their own work in the field. Prof. Cilia Witteman (University Nijmegen), the president of EADM, presented the work of the EADM, discussed potential career paths for academics and gave pragmatic suggestions for young researchers.

Due to the altruistic commitment of all presenters and the funding by EADM, participation at the summer school was free of charge. Also it is noteworthy that the summer school was so attractive that only half of all applicants could be accepted.

Overall, the 2nd JDM EADM summer school was a successful continuation of the first summer school initiated and organized by Prof. Tim Rakow at the University of Essex. The tradition will be continued in with a third summer school, which will be organized by Prof. Shaul Shalvi at Ben-Gurion University in 2016.

