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MBS News Update - July Roundup

1 message

Maine Business School <mbs@maine.edu>
Reply-To: Maine Business School <mbs@maine.edu>
To:

Thu, Aug 1, 2024 at 10:00 AM

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MBS News

July, 2024

Publications

Dr. Pank Agrawal's co-authored paper "Guaranteed Income and Optimal Retirement Guide Paths" has been published in the [Journal of Financial Planning](#), the official publication of the Financial Planning Association. This paper finds that deciding on asset allocations over time and portfolio withdrawal rates remain key considerations for retirees. These decisions are impacted by factors such as the investor's wealth level, and degree of risk aversion, among others. This paper considers these issues as they relate to utility levels for retirees.

Dr. Qiujie "Angie" Zheng's paper "Economics of face masks through the lens of Chinese consumers during COVID-19: Demand, supply, price, and willingness-to-pay" has been accepted for publication by the *China Economic*



Journal. During the outbreak, many governments mandated the use of face masks in public areas, resulting in its demand and market price immediately skyrocketing. The government may intervene in markets through price, which may lead to market misallocation. This article aims to investigate how consumers form their beliefs about face mask price changes based on their estimations of the market demand and supply, both with and without government intervention, and assess their willingness-to-pay (WTP) for face masks during the pandemic. The data was collected through an online survey of Chinese consumers in 2020. The results provide valuable insights for policymakers to better understand consumers' price expectations and WTP for face masks, enabling more effective government interventions to maintain market stability while ensuring consumer access to face masks.



Dr. Manuel Wörsdörfer was invited by the editor of *Philosophy & Technology*, Dr. Floridi, Director of the Digital Ethics Center at Yale University, to write a peer-reviewed commentary on the paper "Datafeudalism: The Domination of Modern Societies by Big Tech Companies." The commentary examines big tech and government-related 'datafication processes' and how they impact privacy and other fundamental human rights. It also analyzes the academic discourse surrounding 'privacy as a human right,' emphasizing its ethical significance, and explores Bentham and Foucault's concept of the '(digital) panopticon.' *Philosophy & Technology* is one of the premier computer ethics journals in the world, comparable to an A* journal on the ABDC list.



Presentations

Dr. Dmitri Markovitch recently presented a paper titled "Consumer reactions to chatbot versus human service: An investigation in the role of outcome valence and perceived empathy" at the [2024 Frontiers in Service Conference](#) at Florida State University.

On Monday, Dr. Qiujie "Angie" Zheng presented her paper at the [Agricultural &](#)

[Applied Economics Association \(AEA\) 2024 Annual Meeting](#). The paper's title is: "Do 'Recognizing my group' and 'My Group being recognized' affect social behavior? A public goods game."

In the News

[WalletHub](#) featured Dr. Billy Obenauer as an expert in answering questions related to the demographics car insurance companies consider when setting premiums.

[UMaine News](#) featured MBS rising senior Lucas Ronco at his summer internship at Renewal by Andersen.



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