NICHOLAS LACOURSE

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GENERAL INFORMATION

Field: Behavioral Economics, Experimental Economics, Microeconomics, Gender and Race Economics

Research Interests: Discrimination, Informational Preferences/Belief Formation, Labour Frictions, Social Preferences under Uncertainty, Rating System Design.

EDUCATION

Ph.D. in Economics   *2018 - 2024 (Expected)*
University of Exeter
Supervisors: Brit Grosskopf, Oliver Hauser

M.A. in Economics   *2017 - 2018*
University of Missouri - Columbia (Mizzou)
Supervisor: Ronald Harstad

B.Sc. in Business Economics   *2012 - 2015*
Louisiana Tech University

WORKING PAPERS

Sunk Costs in Performance Beliefs

Abstract: Can real-effort costs affect beliefs about ego-relevant performance and ability? In a novel experimental framework where we exogenously vary the cost and quality of feedback, we show that subjects who pay a real-effort cost to obtain performance-related feedback adjust their beliefs differently than those who pay nothing. When subjects receive highly accurate feedback about their performance, under-inference is moderate, and there are no significant differences between those who pay a cost and those who do not. However, when subjects receive less accurate feedback, those who receive the free feedback show extreme under-inference, but those who pay a cost are approximately Bayesian. We argue that behavioral costs can stimulate responsiveness to feedback in environments with information structures that would otherwise motivate significant conservatism.

Art Is in the Eye of the Beholder: The Effects of Racial Protests on Experimental Evaluations (*honourable mentions go to Oliver Hauser and Graeme Pearce*)

Abstract: This paper exploits a unique panel of experimental data to study whether the George Floyd Protests and Kenosha Unrest affected race in worker evaluations. In order to manipulate race, we randomly assigned white and black-sounding names to worker-generated output. We establish that white individuals discriminate solely within in-group domains. Black names received lower ratings during the most active months of the George Floyd Protests and showed no racial differences around Kenosha Unrest. Outside active months of social unrest, black names instead received higher evaluations. The data suggest our findings are likely driven by taste rather than belief-based partiality.

SELECTED WORKS IN PROGRESS

Talent, Sorting, and Redistributive Uncertainty (*with Oliver Hauser*)

- Initial Draft Completed, Revisions in Progress

I Like Information, But Not From You: The Effects of Names on Self-Updating

- Data Collection in Progress

TEACHING

Teaching Assistant

• BEE2025-2: Microeconomics II-2 (led by *Simone Mergalia*)	*2020*
• BEE2031: Econometrics (led by *Xiaohui Zhang*)	*2019*
• BEE2025-1: Microeconomics II-1 (led by *Graeme Pearce*)	*2019*
• BEE1023: Introduction to Econometrics (led by *Eva Poen*)	*2019*
• BEE1022: Introduction to Statistics (led by *Eva Poen*)	*2018*
• BEE1024: Mathematics for Economists (led by *Graeme Pearce*)	*2018*

AWARDS AND GRANTS

RSA Grant, £3600 (£1200 × 3)	*2019 - 2022*
Global Excellence Studentship, £93,531	*2018 - 2021*
Dean's List, University of Missouri	*2018*
President's List, University of Missouri	*2017*
Magna Cum Laude, Louisiana Tech University	*2015*
Outstanding Student Scholarship, £9,000	*2012 - 2015*
Bulldog Scholarship, £36,000	*2012 - 2015*

PRESENTATIONS

Annual QUEX Seminar Series (University of Queensland - University of Exeter)	*2022*
Economics Internal Seminar (University of Exeter)	*2021*
Annual Lab-in-the-Field Workshop (University of East Anglia)	*2019*
Annual PGR Economics Internal Conference (University of Exeter)	*2018 - 2021*
Annual PGR Workshop Presentation (University of Exeter)	*2018 - 2021*

EXTRA-CURRICULAR

Postgraduate Research Society	*2018 - 2020*
Academic Chair, Pi Kappa Alpha Fraternity	*2014 - 2015*
Pi Kappa Alpha Member, Louisiana Tech University	*2013 - 2015*
Union Board Member, Lousiana Tech University	*2012 - 2015*

OTHER INFORMATION

Toolstack	MS Office, Overleaf (LaTeX), Git, GitHub, Unix CLI, VS Code, G*Power, Prolific, MTurk, Qualtrics, z-Tree, o-Tree,
Programming	Python, HTML, CSS, JavaScript, R, Stata
Languages	English (Native), Spanish
Citizenship	United States of America