

‘Speaking to
Theorists’,
‘Searching for Facts’,
and
‘Whispering in the
Ears of the Princes’

SEEL Newsletter



UNIVERSITY OF
ABERDEEN

VOL.II...No.1

JUNE 29, 2022

ZERO GPB

What is SEEL?

The Department of Economics is the home to Scotland's first experimental economics laboratory: The Scottish Experimental Economics Laboratory (**SEEL**). **SEEL** also refers to the Aberdeen's research group interested in experimental economics (and related subjects), which includes researchers from the Business School (BS), the Health Economics Research Unit (HERU), and the James Hutton Institute (JH).

The purpose of this newsletter is to highlight the research produced, the events organized, and the activities carried out at **SEEL** (<https://www.abdn.ac.uk/business/research/scottish-experimental-economics-laboratory-seel-277.php>).

SEEL Workshop

On the 19th of November 2021 a **SEEL** virtual research event took place. Each speaker had 10 minutes to present their research followed by 5 minutes for questions. The event finished with a 30-minute informal discussion. The topics being discussed along with the corresponding presenter are listed below.

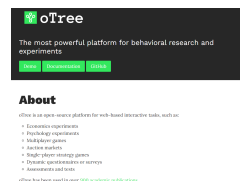
- Performance-related Pay and Stress: Some Experimental Evidence (*Keith Bender*, BS)
- Future thinking in people with problem debt (*Nicole Andelic*, BS)
- Inducing ABS and CBS Procedures in Risky Choice (*Mauro Papi*, BS)

- A Series of Experiments on the Endowment Effect (*Hossein Radmard*, BS)
- Experiments and Environmental Markets (*Frans de Vries*, BS)
- Taking the lab into the field (*Benedikt Mïhm*, BS)
- Smallholders' and consumers' behaviours in African supply chains: Experimental approaches in H2020 FoodLAND (*Simone Piras*, JH)
- Using Experiments for the Design of Agri-environmental Policies (*Laure Kuhfuss*, JH)
- (*Jürgen Bracht*, BS)
- Induced value experiments and stated preference study design (*Verity Watson*, HERU)

oTree at SEEL By MAURO PAPI

The software that has traditionally been used to develop and conduct economic experiments at **SEEL** is z-Tree (<https://www.ztree.uh.ch/en.html>). As part of a renovation project aimed at increasing the value of **SEEL**, an additional package has been made available to **SEEL** researchers: oTree. oTree is an open-source Python-based software that can be used, not only for programming and running economic experiments, but also for conducting surveys and administering tests. oTree requires the

ownership of a web-server, where the relevant experimental software is loaded. Once that such software is compiled, oTree generates web applications whose links are shared with the experimental subjects. While taking part to the experiment, the resulting (anonymised) data is automatically stored in the server, which can then be downloaded and analysed by the experimentalist (<http://www.otree.org/>).¹



Conference on 'Interdisciplinary Approaches to Performance-Related Pay and Incentives to Work' By KEITH BENDER

SEEL affiliate in the BS, Keith Bender, organised a conference on the 7th of June 2022 sponsored by the ESRC-funded project, *Performance-related Pay and Health: An Interdisciplinary Study* (<https://www.abdn.ac.uk/business/research/PRPH.php>), and affiliated with the Centre of European Labour Market Research and **SEEL**. The conference featured two invited keynote speakers (Derek Johnston, Emeritus Professor of Psychology, University of Aberdeen and John Heywood, Distinguished Professor of Economics at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee) and 6 academic papers.

¹The University of Aberdeen IT's invaluable help and support to set up oTree are gratefully acknowledged. For questions or comments pertaining to this newsletter, please contact v.watson@abdn.ac.uk or m.papi@abdn.ac.uk.