Social Norms and Games

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Message from the Guest Editors

Social norms compliance is a prominent approach to the understanding of social behaviour: human beings have an intrinsic preference to conform to what is collectively perceived as "socially appropriate" behaviour in a given context, and are willing to sacrifice material gain in order to avoid actions that are viewed as inappropriate.

Despite a long tradition of research on norms in philosophy, sociology and social psychology, this approach has received relatively little attention in economics. Recently, economists have renewed their interest in norms, attempting to formalise their theoretical underpinnings and measure their predictive power. However, substantial gaps remain in our understanding of norms and their influence on social behaviour, leaving scope for significant advancements of the knowledge frontier in this field.

This Special Issue is intended to encourage these developments. Papers may be theoretical or empirical. To support open, reproducible research, empirical papers should include a power analysis and make all data available on publication.

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