Tyera Zweygardt

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EDUCATION

Ph.D. Candidate in Economics, Boston University, Boston, MA, Expected 2025

- Fields: decision theory, behavioral economics
- Research Assistant for Professor Krishna Dasaratha: network theory and game theory, Fall 2022
- Research Assistant for Professor Linh Tô: economic experiment design, Spring 2022

M.A. in Public Economy, Boston University, Boston, MA, 2023

B.S. Mathematics and B.S. Economics, Arizona State University, Tempe, AZ, 2018

- Undergraduate thesis under Dr. Edward Prescott, Regents Professor

RESEARCH

- **Revealed Preference over States of the World (JMP, working 2024)**
- **Recursive Intrinsic Utility from Information (work in progress 2024)**
- **A Note on Quasiperiodic Preferences (work in progress 2024)**

TEACHING

Instructor:

- **Introductory Microeconomics EC101,** Boston University, Summer 2024
- **Summer Challenge Economic Seminar (High School),** Boston University, Summer 2024
- **Intermediate Microeconomic Analysis EC201,** Boston University, Summer 2023
- **Introductory Microeconomics EC101,** Boston University, Summer 2022

Head Teaching Assistant:

- **Introductory Microeconomics EC 101 (Professor Todd Idson),** Boston University, Fall 2020, Spring 2021, Fall 2021, Spring 2023, Fall 2024

I am honored to have received the 2024 GRS Outstanding Teaching Fellow Award in the Department of Economics at Boston University.

PRESENTATIONS

- Micro Theory Workshop, Boston University, April 2022; April 2023; October 2024
- 3B Theory Workshop, Boston University, December 2023

REFERENCES

Professor Jawwad Noor
Department of Economics
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Professor Barton Lipman
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Professor Juan Ortner
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Master Lecturer Todd Idson
Department of Economics
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Revealed Preference over States of the World (JMP, working 2024)

Abstract: This paper axiomatically reveals a preference over states of the world through the characterization of a specific class of nonstandard preference for information. In particular I characterize attitudes towards positive versus negative skewness in information-induced distributions over posterior beliefs. I analyze a generalization of the Intrinsic Information Utility (IIU) model in Zweygardt (2024) providing conditions for the existence of an expected utility function for information-induced lotteries over states. I provide a novel restriction on preference of non-quasiperiodicity. This assumption guarantees the existence of unique utility from states, and I provide an elicitation procedure for finding an analogue of certainty equivalents for implicit lotteries over states. Finally, I provide an application to task selection in a principal-agent setting, showing that transparency of state utility strictly benefits both the principal and agent.

Recursive Intrinsic Utility from Information (work in progress 2024)

Abstract: This paper develops a recursive model of nonstandard preferences for information using an axiomatic approach. Standard economic models predict that when upcoming decisions are trivial; i.e. menus of acts are singletons, agents will be indifferent towards information. Recent experimental literature reveals that many agents are in fact not indifferent in this setting. I provide theoretical foundations for the recursive model in (Kreps & Porteus, 1978) adapted to an environment with Blackwell experiments. This paper additionally focuses on a parametric family of representations wherein the parameter of interest is future-period intrinsic utility from information and messages. With mild assumptions, the latter class of nonstandard preference reveals an underlying preference over states of the world, for which there exist cardinal uniqueness properties.

A Note on Quasiperiodic Preferences (work in progress 2024)

Abstract: This note provides behavioral foundations for preferences that are represented by a special class of quasiperiodic utility functions. I show that in the context of anomalous preference for information, ruling out quasiperiodic preferences allows for the identification of intrinsic utility from information. Other economic interpretations of these preferences are discussed.