

“RC” Xi Zhi Lim

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Placement Assistant: Amy Devine, (212) 854-6881, aed2152@columbia.edu

EDUCATION

Ph.D. Candidate in Economics, Columbia University	2014 – 2020 (Expected)
B.A. Economics, University of California, Los Angeles	2012 – 2014
Transfer, Diablo Valley College	2010 – 2012

FIELDS OF SPECIALIZATION

Microeconomic Theory, Behavioral Economics

JOB MARKET PAPER

“Ordered Reference Dependent Choice”

Abstract We study how violations of structural assumptions like expected utility and exponential discounting can be connected to reference dependent preferences with set-dependent reference points, even if behavior conforms with these assumptions when the reference is fixed. This is done with the introduction of a unified framework under which both general rationality (WARP) and domain-specific structural postulates (e.g., Independence for risk preference, Stationarity for time preference) are jointly relaxed using a systematic reference dependence approach. The framework allows us to study risk, time, and social preferences collectively, where behavioral departures from WARP and structural postulates are explained by a common source—changing preferences due to reference dependence. In our setting, reference points are given by a linear order that captures the relevance of each alternative in becoming the reference point and affecting preferences. In turn, they determine the domain-specific preference parameters for the underlying choice problem (e.g., utility functions for risk, discount factors for time).

WORKS IN PROGRESS

“Avoidable Risk: An Experiment on Context-Dependent Risk Aversion” with Silvio Ravaioli

“Consideration Sets and WARP Violations in Sequence of Real Choices”

AWARDS, FELLOWSHIPS, AND GRANTS

Dissertation fellowship, Department of Economics, Columbia University	2019 – 2020
Lewis A. Sanders Endowed Fellowship in Economics	2018 – 2019
Dean’s Fellowship, Columbia University	2014 – 2019

CELSS Dissertation Grant	2019
CELSS Research Grant	2019
Wueller Teaching Award, Best TA for Master's Classes (Runner-Up)	2018
CELSS Research Grant	2017

TEACHING ASSISTANTSHIP

Grad MA Micro (Game Theory, Mechanism Design), Georg Noldeke, Navin Kartik	Spring 2019
Grad MA Micro (Decision Theory, General Equilibrium), Bernard Salanie	Fall 2018
Grad MA Micro (Game Theory, Mechanism Design), Qingmin Liu, Navin Kartik	Spring 2018
UG Intermediate Microeconomics, Qingmin Liu	Fall 2017
Grad MA Micro (Game Theory, Mechanism Design), Mark Dean	Spring 2017
Grad MA Micro (Decision Theory, General Equilibrium), Pietro Ortoleva, Bernard Salanie	Fall 2016
UG Intermediate Microeconomics, Qingmin Liu	Spring 2016
UG Intermediate Macroeconomics, Jasmina Arifovic	Fall 2015

PERSONAL

Place of Birth: Kuala Lumpur, 1992

Citizenship: Malaysia

Languages: Malay (Native), English (Native), Chinese (Native), Cantonese (Basic), Indonesian (Basic)

REFERENCES

Pietro Ortoleva (primary)

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Mark Dean (primary)

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