

Matthew Robson

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- Research Interests Inequality, Experimental Economics, Prosocial Behaviour, Revealed Preferences, Experiments, Health Economics, Multidimensional Poverty, Distributive Justice.
- Education **University of York** - PhD Economics - (2014-2018)
Thesis: “Inequality Aversion and Self-Interest: An Experimental Approach”.
Supervisor: John Bone; Advisory Panel: John Hey & Richard Cookson.
Viva: Erik Sørensen (NHH) and Andrew Jones (York) - Pass with No Corrections.
University of York - MSc Health Economics, Merit - (2013-2014)
Bangor University - BA Hons History and Economics, First Class - (2010-2013)
- Employment **EQUIPOL, University of York** - (2018-present)
Centre for Health Economics and Department of Health Sciences.
Research Fellow; Project: Quasi-Experimental Evaluations of Health Inequality.
OPHI, University of Oxford - (2014-present)
Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative.
Part-time Research Assistant; Project: Multidimensional Poverty.
- Teaching **University of York** - (2015-present)
Department of Economics - Ellis-Hunter Teaching Scholar (2015-2019)
· Experimental Economics; Microeconomics 1 & 2; Economics 2: Micro; Econometrics 2.
· Acknowledgement of Teaching Excellence, 2016-19 & Aronson Teaching Prize, 2016-18.
Centre for Health Economics - MSc Dissertation Supervisor (2018/19)
· “Evaluating the Distributional Effects of the English Public Smoking Ban”
Department of Health Sciences - Research Staff Teaching Assistant (2018/19)
· Further Regression Analysis (MSc Level)
- Publications · ‘Eliciting the Level of Health Inequality Aversion in England’, (2017), *Health Economics*,
with Miqdad Asaria, Richard Cookson, Aki Tsuchiya and Shehzad Ali
- Working Papers · ‘Estimating and Decomposing Conditional Average Treatment Effects’, (2019),
HEDG Working Papers, 19/20, with Tim Doran and Richard Cookson
· ‘Giving to Varying Numbers of Others’, (2018),
DERS Discussion Paper, 18(11), with John Bone
· ‘On Data Availability for Assessing Monetary and Multidimensional Poverty’, (2018),
OPHI Research in Progress, 52a, with Sabina Alkire
· ‘Inequality Aversion, Self-Interest and Oneness: A Ugandan Lab-in-the-Field Experiment’,
(2017), *DERS Discussion Paper*, 17(12)
- Code · `lwcate` - Estimation of Conditional Average Treatment Effects using locally-weighted
regressions. Stata Command.

Conference Organisation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Co-founder: Interdisciplinary Research Network for Economists and Philosophers · 3rd IRNEP Conference, University of York, September 2019. · Foundations of Utility and Risk (FUR), University of York, June 2018. · 2nd IRNEP PhD Conference, University of York, October 2016. · 1st IRNEP PhD Conference, University of Reading, October 2015. 	
Presentations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · European Workshop on Econometrics and Health Economics, Leuven, Belgium, 2019. · Center for Health Decision Science (Invited Speaker), Harvard University, USA, 2019. · International Health Economics Association (iHEA), Basel, Switzerland, 2019. · Economics for the Social Good, De Montford University, Leicester, 2019. · Health Economics and Decision Science (Invited Speaker), University of Sheffield, 2019. · Nordic Conference on Behavioural and Experimental Economics, Denmark, 2018. · Summer School on Socioeconomic Inequality, University of Bonn, Germany, 2018. · Foundations of Utility and Risk (FUR), University of York, UK, 2018. · Young Economists' Meeting, Masaryk University, Czech Republic, 2018. · The Choice Lab (Invited Speaker), Norwegian School of Economics, Norway, 2017. · Spring School in Behavioural Economics, USCD, San Diego, USA, 2017. · OPHI (Invited Speaker), University of Oxford, UK, 2017. 	
Awards and Grants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · ESRC Advanced Quantitative Methods (+3) Studentship, 2014-2017. · ESRC Overseas Institutional Visit, The Choice Lab; Bergen, Norway, 2017. · ESRC Company Internship, The Field Laboratory; Mbale, Uganda, 2016. · NIHR Masters Studentship in the Economics of Health, 2013-2014. · William and Myfanwy Eames Prize, Economics, Bangor University, 2013. · Charles Mowat Memorial Prize, History, Bangor University, 2013. 	
Research In Progress	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · 'Health Inequality Aversion and Non-Health Weights' <i>with Owen O'Donnell and Tom Van Ourti</i> · 'Relationships Between Monetary and Multidimensional Poverty' <i>with Martin Evans and Ricardo Nogales</i> · 'Poverty Index Mismatches: Distributional Changes Overtime' <i>with Sabina Alkire</i> · 'Giving to Others and the Future Self' 	
Refereeing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · <i>Health Economics, The European Journal of Health Economics, Social Science and Medicine.</i> 	
Languages and Skills	<p>English (native).</p> <p>MatLab, Stata, Mata, R, Z-Tree, Survey Solutions, L^AT_EX, Corel-Draw, Office.</p>	
References	<p>Mr John Bone Economics and Related Studies University of York john.bone@york.ac.uk, 01904 323770</p>	<p>Professor John Hey EXEC, Economics and Related Studies University of York john.hey@york.ac.uk, 01904 323786</p>
	<p>Professor Sabina Alkire OPHI, International Development University of Oxford sabina.alkire@qeh.ox.ac.uk, 01865 271915</p>	<p>Professor Bertil Tungodden FAIR, Department of Economics Norwegian School of Economics Bertil.Tungodden@nhh.no, +47 55 95 92 61</p>

Research Papers

Inequality Aversion, Self-Interest and Oneness: A Ugandan Lab-in-the-Field Experiment Job Market Paper

The amount we give often depends on whom we are giving to. Indeed, the closer our connection to others the more we might be willing to give. However, the impact of social connectedness on giving behaviour is typically ignored by economic models. To address this, this paper proposes a utility function which intertwines preferences relating to *oneness* (the closeness of connection to others) with *inequality aversion* and *self-interest*. This model is tested using behaviour observed in an incentivised lab-in-the-field experiment in Uganda (n=156). The modified three-person dictator game used provides a rich dataset (54 rounds). This allows for the estimation of individual-level preferences and explicit modelling of ‘noise’ in decision-making. Results show that oneness has large and significant effects on giving; with distinctions between *self-other* and *between-other* trade-offs emerging. Giving behaviour is found to be complex and extensively heterogeneous, yet, the model proposed explains and fits the observed behaviour well.

Estimating and Decomposing Conditional Average Treatment Effects: The Smoking Ban in England with Tim Doran and Richard Cookson

We develop a practical method for estimating and decomposing conditional average treatment effects using locally-weighted regressions. We illustrate with an application to the smoking ban in England using a regression discontinuity design, based on Health Survey for England data. We estimate average treatment effects conditional on socioeconomic status and decompose these effects by smoking location. Results show, the ban had no effect on the level of active smoking, but significantly reduced average exposure to second-hand smoke among non-smokers by 1.38 hours per week. Our method reveals a complex relationship between socioeconomic status and the effect on passive smoking. Decomposition analysis shows that these effects stem primarily from exposure reductions in pubs, but also from workplace exposure reductions for high socioeconomic status individuals.

Giving to Varying Numbers of Others with John Bone.

We test the extent to which giving behaviour changes as the number of recipients increases. Using a modified N-person dictator game, in an incentivised laboratory experiment, *individual-level* preference parameters are estimated within five alternative utility functions. The *goodness-of-fit* and *predictive accuracy* of each model are analysed, while *noise* in decision-making is explicitly modelled with the Dirichlet distribution. Results show that the number of recipients significantly affects aggregate giving behaviour; but individual behaviour is complex and extensively heterogeneous. We show this behaviour can be well explained, fit and predicted, through estimating individual-level preferences, identifying the ‘best’ models and formally modelling noise.

Eliciting the Level of Health Inequality Aversion in England with Miqdad Asaria, Richard Cookson, Aki Tsuchiya and Shehzad Ali.

Health inequality aversion parameters can be used to represent alternative value judgements about policy concern for reducing health inequality versus improving total health. In this study, we use data from an online survey of the general public in England (n = 244) to elicit health inequality aversion parameters for both Atkinson and Kolm social welfare functions. We find median inequality aversion parameters of 10.95 for Atkinson and 0.15 for Kolm. These values suggest substantial concern for health inequality among the English general public which, at current levels of quality adjusted life expectancy, implies weighting health gains to the poorest fifth of people in society six to seven times as highly as health gains to the richest fifth.