

Marlis M. Schneider

Norwegian School of Economics (NHH)
Department of Economics
Helleveien 30
5045 Bergen
Norway

Email: marlis.schneider@nhh.no
Website: marlisschneider.com
Phone: +47 9444 1548

EDUCATION

Norwegian School of Economics (NHH), Bergen, Norway
Ph.D. Economics, *expected* December 2025.

Harris School of Public Policy, University of Chicago, Chicago, USA
Research stay hosted by Ariel Kalil, 09/2023–03/2024.

University of Mannheim, Mannheim, Germany
M.Sc. Economics, 2017–2019.

University of Mannheim, Mannheim, Germany
B.Sc. Economics, 2013–2016.

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Behavioral and Experimental Economics, Economics of Education

WORKING PAPERS

“Parental Belief Updating About Children’s Abilities: Experimental Evidence from Norway” January 2025.

Parents shape their children’s educational trajectories through investment choices guided by beliefs about academic ability. While prior research examines how information gaps distort these beliefs, I study whether parents process available information in biased ways. Using a lab-in-the-field experiment in Norway, I provide signals to parents about their seventh-grade child’s abilities. I analyze whether parents update beliefs differently for positive versus negative signals, across different skill domains (mathematics versus prosociality), and when signals indicate intergenerational skill transmission versus future outcomes of the child. Preliminary results reveal motivated reasoning in parent-child relationships and identify biased information processing as a distinct source of parental belief distortions. This study is the first to document biased belief updating when individuals receive information about others’ performance.

“Parents’ Perceptions of Children’s Economic Prospects Affect Parental Investments” with David Silverman, Ivan A. Hernandez, Rebecca M. Ryan, Ariel Kalil, Mesmin Destin, September 2024.

Presented at the NBER Economics of Mobility Meeting, Fall 2024

Individuals are sensitive to cues about economic conditions in ways that affect their beliefs and behavior. This paper experimentally tests how parents’ perceptions about children’s mobility prospects affect parental investments of time and money in child skill development. An information experiment with $\approx 1,000$ parents of children ages 5-15 aimed to shift parents’ beliefs in the possibility of future upward (downward) economic mobility in US society. We find that parents are sensitive to signals about children’s future economic mobility prospects. Using a novel and original measure of time investment, parents who are induced to think

about favorable prospects for their children increase their time investment in the service of boosting children's skills and report being more willing to pay for resources to do so. These parents also increase their beliefs about the return on parental investments, highlighting a plausible mechanism. The effects hold for economically advantaged and disadvantaged families equally.

RESEARCH IN PROGRESS

"Does Parental Feedback Shape Children's (Over)Confidence?" with Kai Barron, Michela Carlana, and Oda Sund, September 2024.

Data collection ongoing

This paper examines how parents provide feedback to their children and its effects on overconfidence and gender stereotypes. Using a lab-in-the-field experiment with Norwegian children and parents, we measure whether parents strategically distort assessments of their child's past and future performance to boost confidence. Parents evaluate their child's performance in mathematics and Norwegian language tasks, allowing comparison between stereotypically male and female domains. The experiment presents parents with opportunities to provide feedback about their child's abilities in both subjects. Through exogenous variation in task domain and timing of assessment, we examine how parents tailor feedback based on gender stereotypes and performance expectations. The experiment also tests how parental feedback shapes children's beliefs and performance, particularly across gender-congruent versus incongruent subjects. Our study will help to reveal the aims of parents in distorting the feedback they provide to their children.

PUBLICATIONS

"Economic Mobility and Parents' Opportunity Hoarding" with David Silverman, Ivan A. Hernandez, Rebecca M. Ryan, Ariel Kalil, Mesmin Destin, September 2024.

Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America, 21 (37) e2407230121.

GRANTS AND FUNDING

Professor Wilhelm Keilhaus Memorial Fund (15.000 NOK)

Funding received for "Parental Belief Updating About Children's Abilities"

Diligentia Foundation for Empirical Research (39.000 Euro)

Funding received for "Does Parental Feedback Shape Children's (Over)Confidence?"

Research Council of Norway - Research Stay Abroad Funding (250.000 NOK)

Funding received for research stay at the University of Chicago

Centre of Ethics and Economics (CEE) Grant (30.000 NOK)

Funding received for "Parental Belief Updating About Children's Abilities"

Professor Wilhelm Keilhaus Memorial Fund (65.000 NOK)

Funding to support lab-in-the-field study

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Undergraduate: Economics and Psychology (autumn 2024)

Graduate: Long-term Macroeconomic Analysis (spring 2021), Business Cycle Analysis (autumn 2021-autumn 2022), Competitive Strategy (spring 2023), Behavioral Economics (spring 2025)

RESEARCH ASSISTANT EXPERIENCE

Full-time Research Assistant (Predoc) for Teodora Boneva, University of Oxford, United Kingdom, 2019-2020.

Research Assistant for Sebastian Findeisen, University of Mannheim, Germany, 2018-2019.

Research Assistant at the Centre for European Economic Research (ZEW), Mannheim, Germany, 2016-2017.

Research assistant for Prof. Dr. Eckhard Janeba, University of Mannheim, Germany, 2014-2016.

SKILLS

Software: Stata, R, Python, oTree, Qualtrics.

Languages: English (fluent), German (native), French (basic), Latin.

REFERENCES

Alexander W. Cappelen

Professor of Economics
Department of Economics
Norwegian School of Economics (NHH)
Helleveien 30, 5045 Bergen, Norway.
Email: alexander.cappelen@nhh.no
Phone: +47 55 95 95 77

Kjell G. Salvanes

Professor of Economics
Department of Economics
Norwegian School of Economics (NHH)
Helleveien 30, 5045 Bergen, Norway.
Email: kjell.salvanes@nhh.no
Phone: +47 55 95 93 15

Ariel B. Kalil

Daniel Levin Professor
Harris School of Public Policy
University of Chicago
1307 East 60th Street, Chicago, IL 60637, USA.
Email: akalil@uchicago.edu
Phone: +1 773 834 2090

Kai Barron

Postdoctoral Research Fellow
WZB Berlin
Reichpietschufer 50
10785 Berlin, Germany.
Email: kaibarron@gmail.com
Phone: +49 30 25491 432

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