

Accepted Manuscript

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PII: S0167-2681(17)30349-9
DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jebo.2017.12.007>
Reference: JEBO 4221

To appear in: *Journal of Economic Behavior & Organization*

Received date: 9-1-2016
Revised date: 17-11-2017
Accepted date: 5-12-2017

Please cite this article as: Sutter, Matthias, Feri, Francesco, Glätzle-Rützler, Daniela, Kocher, Martin G., Martinsson, Peter, Nordblom, Katarina, Social preferences in childhood and adolescence. A large-scale experiment to estimate primary and secondary motivations. *Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization* <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jebo.2017.12.007>

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Social preferences in childhood and adolescence. A large-scale experiment to estimate primary and secondary motivations*

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Highlights of the paper

Social preferences in childhood and adolescence. A large-scale experiment to estimate primary and secondary motivations

We study how social preferences develop in childhood and adolescence.

We present an experiment with 883 children, aged eight to 17 years.

Applying an econometric mixture model, we estimate primary and secondary social preference motivations.

For boys, efficiency concerns are most important, with selfishness being an important secondary motive.

For girls, maximin-preferences are the modal primary and secondary social preference motivation.

Abstract: We elicit social preferences of 883 children and teenagers, aged eight to 17 years, in an experiment. Using an econometric mixture model we estimate a subject's primary and secondary social preference motivations. The secondary motivation indicates the motivation that becomes relevant when the primary motivation implies indifference between various

* We would like to thank Thomas Plankensteiner from the State Board of Education in Tyrol (*Landesschulrat für Tirol*) and the principals of the participating schools (Max Gnigler, Gottfried Heiss, Siegmund Heel, Ulrike Künstle, Hermann Lergetporer, Bernhard Schretter and Peter Paul Steinringer) for making this study possible. We received many helpful comments from two anonymous reviewers, Dirk Engelmann, and audiences at the International Conference on The Economic Child in Milan, the International Meeting on Experimental and Behavioral Economics in Granada, the Spring Meeting of Young Economists in Istanbul, the Meeting of the European Economic Association in Barcelona, the Economic Science Association in Luxembourg and seminars in Amsterdam, Munich, and Jena. Financial support from the Austrian Central Bank (Jubilaumsfonds Projekt 12588), the Swedish Research Council (*Vetenskapsrådet*), and the Jan Wallander and Tom Hedelius Foundation is gratefully acknowledged.

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