

PPE Seminar Series

A Theory of Injunctive Norms with Alexander Vostroknutov



Erik O. Kimbrough, Ph.D.
*Associate Professor of Economics
Smith Institute for Political Economy and
Philosophy, Chapman University*

Abstract: Theories of norm-dependent utility assume commonly known injunctive norms that rank feasible outcomes by their normative valence, but as yet normative valences have only been measured experimentally. We provide a theoretical foundation that assigns a normative valence to each outcome based on players' dissatisfactions, which depend on the higher utilities that they could have received at other outcomes. The normatively best outcome is the one that minimizes aggregated dissatisfaction. Our model imposes structure on theories of norm-driven behavior, rendering them precise and falsifiable. We consider a variety of illustrative applications, highlighting the intuition and explanatory power of the model.

The Philosophy, Politics, and Economics (PPE) Research Seminar Series provides a forum for eminent scholars across these disciplines to present their work in a flexible format with faculty and students.

Fri. Nov. 12th | 1:00–2:30 p.m. PST | Via Zoom | Register here

For questions or information: darwynn.deyo@sjsu.edu

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