

Preface

The field of experimental economics is rapidly evolving. Recent research includes experiments conducted both in the laboratory and in the field, and the results are used for testing and better understanding of economic theories. This book focuses on providing a deep insight into main topics of experimental economics and on presenting the recent trends in this area of expertise.

The book includes the papers of researchers who are interested in this subject and represent a certain level of experience regarding the field. Its main objective is to exemplify the links between various domains of knowledge which are part of experimental economics.

The book is divided into three parts:

1. Theoretical aspects of experimental economics
2. Methods and tools of experimental economics
3. Practical issues: case studies

Each of these parts begins with an introduction outlining its subject and summarising each of its chapters. The purpose of the introduction is to help the reader navigate through the chapters contained in the given part. The authors of the introductions are their thematic editors.

As its title suggests, the first part of the book presents theoretical foundations of experimental economics. It outlines the historical background of experimental economics, the types of economic experiments, the procedures in experimental studies in economics as well as several other issues referring to the experimental economics. The thematic editor of this part is Danuta Miłaszewicz (professor of the University of Szczecin, Poland).

In every stage of an economic experiment, from its design to the data analysis, the researcher has to choose among a vast range of methods and tools. Therefore, the second part of the book contains a broad outline of instruments that support experimenters in various phases of their studies. The outline presents both the methods commonly used by experimenters (such as statistical ones) and those typically less associated with experimental economics (e.g. artificial intelligence,

computer simulation, computer graphics, cognitive neuroscience techniques or multicriteria decision support methods) pointing to their potential application in economic experimenting. Showing the variety of these methods and their possible applications in the book is meant to widen the scientific toolkit of experimental economics researchers. The thematic editor of this part is Mariusz Borawski (associate professor, West Pomeranian University of Technology, Szczecin, Poland).

The last part of the volume, titled 'Practical issues: case studies', presents the examples of broadly understood experiments in economics. They refer to different areas and utilise various methods which were described in methodological chapters of the book. The third part of this book presents only selected experiments and approaches to experimental economics. It outlines, however, the wide range of topics and methods that can be used within this field of study. Recent advancements in technology allow for designing increasingly advanced and interesting experiments. Therefore it can be assumed that experimental economics will develop dynamically in the future. A thematic editor of this part is Anna Borawska (assistant professor, University of Szczecin, Poland).

The issues addressed in the monograph do not exhaust the subject of experimental economy. Yet, in the opinion of the editors, it shows well the diversity of areas, problems, methods, techniques and domains concerning this subject.

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