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Laboratory Experiments: Cooperation, Sanctions and Norms

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Message from the Guest Editors

The recent decades have seen a tremendous progress in our understanding of cooperative behavior. In particular, the controlled environment offered by laboratory experiments has allowed the causal identification of potential determinants of cooperation. Among these, social norms have been identified as a key factor. Groups establish and maintain norms of behavior by using various forms of sanctions, such as mutual peer punishment, ostracism, gossip, or shaming. However, there is a large degree of heterogeneity in the content of group norms, the adherence to them, and the way that sanctions are used to sustain them. Since these facets are not yet fully understood, the Special Issue on "Laboratory Experiments: Cooperation, Sanctions and Norms" aims at advancing our knowledge in the mentioned areas. We thus invite submissions that touch upon one or more of these areas. The main focus is on work with lab experiments. Yet, given the current restrictions imposed by Covid-19, we also welcome online experiments and field experiments, as well as theoretical contributions, survey articles, and meta-analyses that do not require new experiments.



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Special Issue