

LSE Summer School Session 2
7/8 – 7/26/2023
Yip Ren Wei (GEfIL 8th)

I am deeply grateful to the Tazaki Foundation for providing me with the opportunity to attend the EC200 Behavioural Economics course at the London School of Economics (LSE) during the summer school session. This experience has been both academically enriching and personally transformative, offering me new perspectives on economic theory and human behavior, as well as an invaluable chance to engage with a diverse and intellectually stimulating community.

Academic Insights and Learning Outcomes

The EC200 Behavioural Economics course was an intensive, intellectually rigorous program that explored the intersection of psychology and economics. Over the course of three weeks, we delved into various models that challenge traditional economic assumptions of rationality, instead highlighting how biases, heuristics, and social influences shape decision-making processes. The lectures, delivered by world-renowned professors, were complemented by engaging seminars where we debated topics such as prospect theory, time inconsistency, and nudging.

One of the most impactful lessons for me was understanding how behavioural insights can be applied to policy design. We examined real-world case studies where behavioural economics has informed public policy, such as initiatives to increase organ donation rates or improve savings behavior. These discussions not only deepened my understanding of the subject but also inspired me to think about how these principles could be applied to the challenges faced by societies today, including those in my home country.

Cultural Exchange and Networking

The LSE summer school attracts students from all over the world, and being part of such a diverse cohort was an extraordinary experience. I had the privilege of engaging with peers from various cultural and academic backgrounds, which enriched our discussions both inside and outside the classroom. The diversity of perspectives allowed for a more nuanced understanding of behavioural economics, as we each brought unique insights influenced by our cultural contexts.

Beyond the academic environment, the cultural exchange extended to social activities organized by the summer school. These events provided a platform to build lasting relationships with fellow students, as well as to explore the vibrant city of London. The experience of living and studying in such a dynamic and cosmopolitan city was invaluable, offering me a broader global perspective that will undoubtedly inform my future academic and professional endeavors.

Personal Growth and Future Aspirations

This experience has had a profound impact on my personal and academic trajectory. The rigorous coursework challenged me to think critically and to approach problems from a multidisciplinary perspective. The exposure to cutting-edge research and the global network I developed at LSE have inspired me to consider a future career in academia or policy-making, where I can contribute to addressing economic and social issues through the lens of behavioural economics. I am particularly interested in exploring how behavioural insights can be leveraged to promote sustainable practices and improve societal well-being.

Photos

