

Quentin André, Ph.D.

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Employment and Education

2020- **Assistant Professor**, Leeds School of Business, University of Colorado Boulder, USA
2018-2020 **Assistant Professor**, Rotterdam School of Management, Erasmus University, the Netherlands
2013-2018 **Ph.D. Marketing (cum laude)**, INSEAD Europe Campus, France
Dissertation: “Essays in Consumer Financial Decision-Making and Numerical Cognition.”
2009-2012 **M.Sc. Managerial and Financial Economics**, HEC Paris, France
2008-2009 **B.A. Management**, HEC Paris, France (Minor in History of Arts at Sorbonne University)

Research Interests

- Numerical and Managerial Cognition
- Probabilistic Reasoning
- Research and Statistical Methods
- Error Detection

Publications

André, Quentin, Nicholas Reinholtz, and Bart de Langhe (2022), “Can Consumers Learn Price Dispersion? Evidence for Dispersion Spillover Across Categories”, *Journal of Consumer Research*

This paper examines consumers’ ability to form accurate beliefs about the minimum, the maximum, and the overall variability of prices for multiple product categories. Eight experiments provide evidence for a novel phenomenon we call dispersion spillover: Consumers tend to overestimate price dispersion in a category after encountering another category in which prices are more dispersed. This dispersion spillover is consequential: It influences the likelihood that consumers search for (and find) better prices and offers, and how much consumers bid in auctions. We disentangle two cognitive processes that might underlie dispersion spillover, and show that it does not simply reflect the inappropriate activation of prices from other categories. Instead, it appears that consumers also form “intuitive statistics” of dispersion: Summary representations that encode the dispersion of prices in the environment, but that are insufficiently category-specific.

André, Quentin (2022) “Outlier Exclusion Procedures Must be Blind to the Researcher’s Hypothesis”, *Journal of Experimental Psychology: General*

When researchers choose to identify and exclude outliers from their data, should they do so across all the data, or within experimental conditions? Both methods are widely used, and common data visualization techniques suggest that outliers should be excluded at the condition-level. In this paper, I highlight that removing outliers by condition runs against the logic of hypothesis testing. I show in simulated experiments, and in a re-analysis of existing data, that by-condition exclusions can result in false-positive rates as high as 43%. I finally demonstrate that by-condition exclusions are a specific case

of a more general issue: Any outlier exclusion procedure that is not blind to the hypothesis that researchers want to test may result in inflated Type I errors. I conclude by offering best practices and recommendations for excluding outliers.

André, Quentin and Bart de Langhe (2022), “How (Not) To Test Theory with Data: Illustrations from Walasek, Mullett and Stewart”, *Journal of Experimental Psychology: General*

In a response to André and de Langhe (2021), Walasek, Mullett and Stewart (2020) defend the link between decision by sampling and loss aversion. We take their response as an opportunity to emphasize three guiding principles when testing theory with data: 1) Look for data that are uniquely predicted by the theory, 2) Do not ignore data that contradict the theory, and 3) If an experiment is flawed, fix it. In light of these principles, we do not believe that Walasek, Mullett, and Stewart (2020) provide new insights about the origin and stability of loss aversion.

André, Quentin and Bart de Langhe (2022), “No Evidence for Loss Aversion Disappearance and Reversal in Walasek and Stewart (2015)” *Journal of Experimental Psychology: General*

In an influential article published in the Journal of Experimental Psychology: General, Walasek and Stewart (2015) test an implication of decision by sampling theory: Loss aversion can disappear, and even reverse, depending on the distribution of gains and losses people have encountered. In this article, we show that the results reported in Walasek and Stewart (2015) emerge because the estimates of loss aversion are computed on different lotteries in different conditions. After correcting this error, we do not see evidence that loss aversion is shaped by the distribution of gains and losses that people have encountered.

André, Quentin, Pierre Chandon, and Kelly H. Haws (2019), “Healthy Through Presence or Absence, Nature or Science?: A Framework for Understanding Front-of-Package Food Claims”. *Journal of Public Policy and Marketing*

Consumers intuitively categorize front-of-packaging claims displayed on food into 4 broad categories: (1) Claims about “removing negatives,” (e.g., “Low Fat”), (2) claims about “adding positives,” (e.g., “High vitamins”), (3) claims about “not adding negatives” (e.g., “GMO-free”), and (4) claims about “not removing positives” (e.g., “Unprocessed”). Each type of claim is associated with different beliefs about the healthiness, tastiness, and dieting properties of the food.

André, Quentin, Ziv Carmon, Klaus Wertenbroch, Alia Crum, Douglas Frank, William Goldstein, Joel Huber, Leaf van Boven, Bernd Weber and Haiyang Yang (2018), “Consumer Choice and Autonomy in the Age of Artificial Intelligence and Big Data”. *Customer Needs and Solutions*

Drawing on diverse perspectives from marketing, economics, philosophy, neuroscience, and psychology, we explore how consumers’ sense of autonomy in making choices affects their well-being. We discuss how new technologies may enhance or diminish consumers’ perceptions of being in control of their choices and how feelings of control (or lack thereof) affect consumers’ well-being. We suggest avenues for future research in the domain of choice, well-being, and consumer welfare.

[Working Papers](#)

Paolacci, Gabriele and **Quentin André**, “Uncertain Outcomes are Valued Less than Certain Outcomes” (second round at Management Science)

Most theories of decision-making under risk assume that payoffs and probabilities are separable: The subjective value of a prospective outcome (the payoff) is assumed to be independent of the likelihood that the outcome will occur (the probability). In violation of this assumption, we show that people anticipate less utility from uncertain outcomes than from certain outcomes. Our results suggest that this effect does not simply reflect an aversion toward “weird” transactions: Instead, we argue that hypothetical outcomes are perceived as psychologically distant, which leads to muted reactions towards their utility. Finally, we show that our findings cast a new light on the phenomenon of risk aversion, and offer a solution to the paradoxical “uncertainty effect,” whereby a risky prospect is valued less than its worst possible realization.

André, Quentin, Bart de Langhe, and Philip Fernbach, “Hipsters and Hillbillies: The Perils of Personas” (submitted at the Journal of Marketing)

Market segmentation entails a number of data-driven steps (e.g., choosing variables, collecting data, identifying clusters in the data, summarizing their properties), which are then followed by sense-making efforts through statistical segments are interpreted and understood. We find that two common sense-making techniques – choosing descriptive segment names and generating “personas” – on people’s perception of consumer segments. lead people to amplify the differences between segments (“amplification”) and to compress the differences within segments (“compression”). We discuss the implication of our results for marketing practice, and suggest possible interventions to mitigate these biases.

André, Quentin and Bart de Langhe, “Everyone’s a Genius in a Bull Market: How Exogenous Trends Lead to Overconfidence” (four studies collected, first draft in preparation)

We study how positive exogenous trends (outcomes getting better and better over time, independently of the decision makers’ action) can lead to overconfidence. We argue that since decision-makers tend to try strategies that they believe will result in positive outcomes (a positive-test strategy), any trend that makes the outcome better and better over time will lure them into a false sense of confidence. To do so, I designed and programmed a simulation in which people make repeated investment decisions, and are asked to learn the characteristics that are associated with higher returns. Unbeknownst to them, the payoffs are independent of their choices, and are manipulated to be increasing (vs. decreasing or flat) over time. We show that this manipulation of slope significantly increases people’s confidence in how much they have learned and makes them more confident in their ability to predict future outcomes.

André, Quentin, Sam Hirshman, and Nicholas Reinholtz, “Would you Buy a South-Pointing Compass? People Underestimate the Informativeness of Negatively Correlated Preferences” (four studies collected, first draft in preparation)

If you had to decide about which movie to watch, which product to purchase, or which policy to vote for, would you rather ask a friend you systematically disagree with, or one you often agree with? Our experiments show that people systematically undervalue “south-pointing compasses”: Sources of information that have a strong negative correlation with their own preferences. Instead, they prefer to rely on information that is weakly correlated with their own preferences, and therefore less informative. We show that this bias is robust to different paradigms (decisions from description and decisions from experience), different decision domains (political choices, movie choices, and abstract stimuli), and different tasks (accept and reject).

André, Quentin, Nicholas Reinholtz, and John G. Lynch Jr., “Restricted-Use Funds and Budgeting Decisions” (on hold)

How do consumers budget when a part of their income is denominated in a category-restricted resource (e.g., food stamps)? Building on the mental accounting and categorization literature, we hypothesized that people endowed with a category-restricted resource would be averse to spending their unrestricted money on products of this category. To test this hypothesis, we developed a multi-round, interactive budgeting simulation. We find that people endowed with a food-restricted resource end up budgeting less on food than people who received an equivalent amount in unrestricted money.

Libraries and Software

pyppcurve: A library for p-curve analysis in Python

- A Python implementation of Simonsohn, Simmons and Nelson's 'p-curve'

“Investment Game”: An interactive game illustrating how market trends can foster illusory learning

- Experimental paradigm developed for André and de Langhe (working paper), written in React, Redux and Flask
- Used to illustrate learning traps in MBA and EMBA classes at ESADE, KU Leuven, RSM, and CU Boulder

distBuilder: A Javascript library to add distribution builders to online and offline experiments

- Open-source implementation of the distribution builder method described in Goldstein and Rothschild (2014)
- Documentation and source code available at <https://quentinandre.github.io/software/distributionbuilder/> (includes a ready-to-use Qualtrics implementation)

pyprocessmacro: A Python 3 library to estimate moderation, mediation, and conditional processes

- Open-source rewrite of Andrew F. Hayes’ “Process Macro” in Python
- Documentation and source code available at <https://quentinandre.net/software/pyprocessmacro/>

pypsprite: A Python 3 re-implementation of 'Sample Parameter Reconstruction via Iterative TEchniques (SPRITE)' (Heathers et al. 2018)

- Documentation and source code available at <https://github.com/QuentinAndre/pysprite>

affectiveSamplerJS: A Javascript library to record people’s affective reactions to audio/video sequences

- Documentation and source code available at <https://github.com/QuentinAndre/AffectiveSamplerJS>

wordSearchJS: A Javascript library to add word search tasks to online and offline experiments

- Documentation and source code available at <https://github.com/QuentinAndre/WordSearchJS>

Conferences and Invited Presentations

Society for Personality and Social Psychology – JDM Pre-Conference , Atlanta, USA, February 2023

- “People Underestimate the Informativeness of Negatively Correlated Preferences” (Invited Presentation)

Association for Consumer Research Conference, Denver, USA, October 2022

- “People Underestimate the Informativeness of Negatively Correlated Preferences” (Session Chair)

HEC Montreal, Canada, April 2022

- “A Critical Perspective on Effect Sizes in Marketing” (Invited Presentation)

University of Bath, UK, March 2022

- “People Underestimate the Informativeness of Negatively Correlated Preferences” (Invited Presentation)
- Booth School of Business, University of Chicago**, Illinois, USA, February 2022
- “Hipsters and Hillbillies: The Perils of Personas” (Invited Presentation)
- Association for Consumer Research Conference**, Online, October 2021
- “Outlier Exclusion Procedures Must be Blind to the Researchers’ Hypothesis” (Session Chair)
- Sauder School of Business, University of British Columbia**, Vancouver, Canada, April 2021
- “Hipsters and Hillbillies: The Perils of Personas” (Invited Presentation)
- The Data Colada Seminar Series**, Online, February 2021
- “Can Consumers Learn Price Dispersion?” (Invited Presentation, video link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KhqY8D-8BLM>)
- Society for Consumer Psychology Conference**, Huntington Beach, California, USA, March 2020
- “Slop(p)y Learning: When Market Trends Foster a False Sense of Understanding” (Session Paper)
- Bocconi University**, Milan, Italy, November 2019
- “Slop(p)y Learning: When Market Trends Foster a False Sense of Understanding” (Invited Presentation)
- Boulder Summer Conference on Consumer Financial Decision Making**, Boulder, Colorado, USA, May 2018
- “Restricted-Use Funds and Budgeting Decisions” (Paper)
- Rotterdam School of Management**, Rotterdam, The Netherlands, February 2018
- “Restricted-Use Funds and Budgeting Decisions” (Invited Presentation)
- ESADE**, Barcelona, Spain, February 2018
- “Restricted-Use Funds and Budgeting Decisions” (Invited Presentation)
- Society for Judgement and Decision-Making Annual Meeting**, Vancouver, Canada, November 2017
- “Can Food Stamps Reduce Food Consumption? The Unintended Consequences of Restricted-Use Funds on Budgeting Decisions” (Paper)
 - “Variance Spillover: Consumers Underestimate Differences in Price Dispersion” (Paper)
- Association for Consumer Research Conference**, San Diego, California, USA, October 2017
- “Can Food Stamps Reduce Food Consumption? The Unintended Consequences of Restricted-Use Funds on Budgeting Decisions” (Session Chair)
 - “Variance Spillover: Consumers Underestimate Differences in Price Dispersion” (Session Chair)
- Symposium on Meaning and Alienation in Consumption**, Munich, Germany, January 2017
- “The Value of Meaning: How Job Satisfaction Affects Consumers’ Perception and Use of their Earnings” (Invited Presentation)
- Association for Consumer Research Conference**, Berlin, Germany, October 2016
- “The Value of Meaning: How Job Satisfaction Affects Consumers’ Perception and Use of their Earnings” (Session Chair)
 - “Removing This (or not), Adding That (or not): A Taxonomy of ‘Healthy’ Food Claims” (Session Paper)
- Invitational Choice Symposium**, Lake Louise, Alberta, Canada, May 2016
- “When to Choose” (Discussant)
- European Marketing Academy Conference**, Oslo, Norway, May 2016

- “The Value of Meaning: How Job Satisfaction Affects Consumers’ Perception and Use of their Earnings” (Paper)

Society for Consumer Psychology Conference, St. Pete Beach, Florida, USA, February 2016

- “Removing This (or not), Adding That (or not): A Taxonomy of ‘Healthy’ Food Claims” (Session Paper)

Open Course Initiative at INSEAD, Fontainebleau, France, March 2015

- “Happiness in a Consumerist World: What Marketing Research Can Teach Us About Well-Being”

Transformative Consumer Research Conference (ACR), Lille, France, May 2013

- “Low-Income Consumers” (Discussant)

Honors and Grants

- Fellow, **2016 AMA-Sheth Doctoral Consortium**, Mendoza College of Business, University of Notre Dame, Indiana
- Winner of the **ADL Partner PhD Award** (€ 11,250)
- Full tuition scholarship, **INSEAD**, 2013-2018

Teaching

Undergraduate and Graduate Level

- Marketing Management (MBA Core), 2020-, CU Boulder
- Brand Development (M.Sc.), 2019-2020, Rotterdam School of Management

Ph.D. Seminars

- Experimental Methods, 2019-2020, Rotterdam School of Management

Teaching Assistant

- Brand Management (MBA Elective), Pierre Chandon, 2015-2017

Adjunct Lecturer Positions

- Preparation to Business School Interviews, Prepa-Sciences IPECOM Paris, 2008-2013
- History of Economic Theory, Prepa-Sciences IPECOM Paris, 2008-2010

Academic Service

Editorial Review Board Membership

- Marketing Letters

Reviewer Service

- Journal of Public Policy and Marketing
- Journal of Marketing
- Journal of Consumer Psychology
- Journal of Consumer Research
- Journal of Experimental Psychology: General
- Social Psychology and Personality Science
- Management Science
- Marketing Letters

- Nature Communications

Service to the School

- Member of the Ph.D. Committee, CU Boulder
- Ph.D. Student Representative for the Marketing Department, INSEAD
- Ph.D. Alumni Reunion Organization Committee, INSEAD

Other Skills

- Python (Web scraping, data processing, natural language processing, statistical analysis and data visualization)
- Statistics (Python, R)
- Front-end Web Development (React, Redux, TypeScript)
- Back-end Web Development (Flask, SQLAlchemy)
- Git and GitHub (GitHub profile: <https://github.com/QuentinAndre>)
- Data Forensics (Hilgard ratio: 1)