

# David Bilén

## PhD Candidate

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### Fields of Concentration:

Behavioral Economics, Environmental Economics, Public Economics

### Education

#### Graduate Studies

PhD Economics, University of Gothenburg, 2018-2023

Expected Defense Date: June 2023

*Advisors:* Professor Olof Johansson-Stenman and Professor Eva Ranehill

#### Undergraduate

MSc, Economics, Stockholm University, 2015-2017

BSc, Economics and political science, Linköping University, 2012-2015

### Research:

#### Work in progress

“Do carbon labels cause consumers to reduce their emissions? Evidence from a large scale natural experiment” ([Job market paper](#))

In this paper, I use consumer transaction data from two supermarkets to study if carbon footprint labels cause consumers to reduce their grocery carbon emissions. I exploit a difference-in-difference setting where one supermarket unexpectedly, from one day to the next, introduced labels on around 3000 products with their carbon footprint, while another similar supermarket did not. My sample includes more than 30,000 consumers making 400,000 orders, and I follow them up to one year post-treatment. I find an average reduction in total emissions of around 2.5 percent from informing consumers about the products' carbon emissions, which corresponds to about 1.4 kg CO<sub>2</sub> less per order. This effect size is smaller than found in most other studies based on lab or field experiments, but still economically meaningful. It corresponds to estimates in the literature of a carbon tax on meat and dairy products of about 20\$ per tonne CO<sub>2</sub>. The main driver was that customers in the treated store reduced their beef consumption by 8-16 percent and increased their consumption of products with a lower carbon footprint, such as pork, poultry, and vegetarian products.

“Monetary incentives and climate-friendly consumption”

In this paper, I use scanner data from more than 500,000 orders and 50,000 consumers and study a large-scale natural experiment where a supermarket implemented a monetary bonus on fresh vegetables and labeled them as “climate-friendly”. The monetary bonus function as a subsidy that lowers the relative price of these “climate-friendly” goods. The monetary incentive is, however, minor, about 1 cent refund on every spent Euro. My results show that the consumer response is substantially larger than expected solely from the monetary incentive, indicating that the normative appeal of “climate-friendly” products plays a significant role in purchase decisions.

“The economic and social consequences of psychological trauma: The case of train drivers’ exposure to person under train events” David Bilén, University of Gothenburg, Petra Ornstein, Uppsala university, Eva Ranehill, University of Gothenburg, Roberto Weber, University of Zurich

In this paper, we study how the experience of psychological trauma impacts an individual’s future mental health and labor market outcomes. We study train drivers who experience suicide jumpers (person under the train) on the Swedish railway from 2005 until 2020. These events are tragic for many parties and can have severe consequences for the driver. Person under the train (PUT) events do not impact the train drivers’ human capital or the economic environment outside of the driver’s psychological trauma, and the drivers have no role in the events. We collect all PUT events on the Swedish railway from 2005 until 2020 and follow the universe of Swedish train drivers’ medical and labor market outcomes using detailed Swedish register data during the same period.

“Positional concerns governed by norms compliance” David Bilén, University of Gothenburg, Fei Ao, Uppsala University

## **Publications**

“Are women more generous than men? A meta-analysis” David Bilén, Anna Dreber, Magnus Johannesson, Journal of the Economic Science Association volume 7, pages 1–18 (2021) We perform a meta analysis of gender differences in the standard windfall gains dictator game (DG) by collecting raw data from 53 studies with 117 conditions, giving us 15,016 unique individual observations. We find that women on average give 4 percentage points more than men (Cohen’s  $d=0.16$ ), and that this difference decreases to 3.1% points (Cohen’s  $d=0.13$ ) if we exclude studies where dictators can only give all or nothing. The gender difference is larger if the recipient in the DG is a charity, compared to the standard DG with an anonymous individual as the recipient (a 10.9 versus a 2.3% points gender difference). These effect sizes imply that many individual studies on gender differences are underpowered; the median power in our sample of standard DG studies is only 9% to detect the meta-analytic gender difference at the 5% significance level. Moving forward on this topic, sample sizes should thus be substantially larger than what has been the norm in the past.

## **Referee**

Journal of Environmental Economics and Management, Journal of Economic Psychology

## **Presentations**

Swedish Conference in Economics (SSE) 2022  
Fourth Nordic Annual Environmental and Resource Economics (NAERE) 2022  
NHH FAIR 2022  
University of Gothenburg 2022  
European Economic Science Association Conference in Bologna 2022  
European Association of Environmental and Resource Economists 2022  
Ulvön Conference on Environmental Economics 2022  
University of Gothenburg 2022  
University of Linköping 2021  
University of Gothenburg 2021

## **Further Research Experience:**

Research assistant for Professor Anna Dreber at Stockholm School of Economics, 2017-2018.

## **Teaching Experience:**

### **Stockholm University**

Teaching Assistant, Microeconomics (BSc level), 2016-2018

### **University of Gothenburg**

Teaching Assistant, Macroeconomics (BSc level), 2019-2021  
Teaching Assistant, Macroeconomic Theory (BSc level), 2020-2021  
Teaching Assistant, Microeconomic Theory (BSc level), 2020  
Teaching Assistant, International Economics (BSc level), 2020-2021

## **Languages**

English (fluent), Swedish (native)

## **Technical**

Stata, L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X

## **References**

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