

# Social Motives *vs* Social Influence: an Experiment on Interdependent Time Preferences\*

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## Abstract

We report experimental evidence on the effects of social preferences on intertemporal decisions. To this aim, we design an *intertemporal Dictator Game* to test whether Dictators modify their discounting behavior when their own decision is imposed on their matched Recipients. We run four different treatments to identify the effect of payoffs externalities from those related to information and beliefs. Our descriptive statistics show that heterogeneous social time preferences and information about others' time preferences are significant determinants of choices: Dictators display a marked propensity to account for the intertemporal preferences of Recipients, *both* in the presence of externalities (*social motives*) and/or when they know about the decisions of their matched partners (*social influence*). We also perform a structural estimation exercise to control for heterogeneity in risk attitudes. As for individual behavior, our estimates confirm previous studies in that high risk aversion is associated with low discounting. As for social behavior, we find that social motives outweigh social influence, especially when we restrict our sample to pairs of Dictators and Recipients who satisfy minimal consistency conditions.

*Keywords:* social preferences, risk and time preferences, social influence, belief elicitation.

*JEL Classification:* C91, D70, D81, D91.

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*“At the first time of sexual union the passion of the male is intense, and his time is short [...]*

*With the female, however, it is the contrary, for at the first time her passion is weak, and then her time long [...]*

*If a male be a long-timed, the female loves him the more, but if he be short-timed, she is dissatisfied with him.”*

“The Kama Sutra of Vatsyayana” - Burton *et al.* [19]

## 1 Introduction

We often show concerns for others by changing the timing of a specific course of action. This happens routinely in household key decisions such as selling a house, investing in a pension plan or even getting divorced. The empirical literature on health economics has extensively studied the relationship between time preferences for one’s own private health and for others’ health (see Lazaro *et al.* [53], [54] or Robberstad [63] for earlier contributions on this area and Mahboub-Ahari *et al.* [55] for a recent meta-analysis). It is also well documented (see, e.g., Abdellaoui *et al.* [1], Browning [17], Mazzocco [56], [57], among others) that multi-person household saving and consumption patterns may strongly differ from those of single-person households, even after controlling for individual characteristics (e.g., own risk aversion, or discounting) of each household component. As all these examples illustrate, *social* (i.e., interdependent) concerns may affect the timing of choices: decision makers may try to accommodate others’ intertemporal concerns, when decisions affect the latter’s prospects and welfare.

This paper aims at providing evidence on *the effects of social preferences on intertemporal decisions*. More in detail, we are interested in better understanding how much -and in which direction- individuals’ preferences for anticipating or delaying an action can be affected by the presence of payoff externalities. Clearly, our motivating examples lead to a broader concept of social preferences, compared with its current usage in the flourishing -mainly experimental- literature on these matters, where social preferences are usually restricted to people’s interest on “*the fairness of their own material payoff relative to the payoff of others...*” (Fehr and Schmidt [30], p. 819). In contrast with this literature, in this paper concerns for others may not only involve others’ *material consequences* (e.g., monetary outcomes, consumption bundles), but also others’ *concerns and inclinations*, such as risk aversion or discounting. This, in turn, calls for modeling social preferences *as mapped directly on others’ individual utilities* (Harrison *et al.* [42]).

This modeling approach basically frames subjects’ behavior as maximizing a social welfare function, which requires an operational solution of the delicate issue of interpersonal comparison of utilities (which

is, probably, the reason why the mainstream literature has always preferred to restrict the domain of social preferences to the physical outcome space). By contrast, the empirical literature we just cited -take, e.g. Mazzocco [57], eq. (3)- posits that households maximize a convex linear combination of the individual (“self-ish”) utilities of their members, which are assumed to be derived as different parametrizations -depending on individual characteristics- of the same functional, with weights being interpreted as proxies of each member’s bargaining power within the household. This is going to be the modeling approach we use in this paper.

Our empirical evidence comes from a multi-stage laboratory experiment where we investigate on the link between time and social preferences by way of Multiple Price Lists (MPLs, Holt and Laury [46], [47]). Since time and risk preferences are intertwined, we follow Andersen *et al.* [5] by eliciting (own) risk and time preferences by way of separate tasks in the first two stages of the experiment (see also Andersen *et al.* [6], Harrison *et al.* [39], [40] or Sutter *et al.* [67] for applications of similar methods). Thus, we use MPLs to elicit risk preferences and control for the curvature of subjects’ utility function when estimating time preferences by way of another sequence of ten MPLs in which subjects are asked to choose between an immediate smaller reward and an increasingly larger later reward. The novelty of our approach relies on incorporating a *social dimension* to this protocol. Thus, once subjects have completed the first two stages, we match them in pairs and randomly assign the roles of *Dictators* and *Recipients*. Then, Dictators go through, once again, the same sequence of intertemporal decisions knowing that -this time- their choices may also be implemented for their assigned Recipient. Subjects’ information on others’ risk and time decisions and the presence of payoff externalities defines our treatment conditions:

1. in the baseline treatment ( $T_0$ , INFO-SOCIAL), Dictators make their intertemporal choices after being informed of what their assigned Recipient had chosen in the first two stages of the experiment;
2. in the BELIEF-SOCIAL treatment ( $T_1$ ), before deciding for the pair, Dictators go through an additional stage in which we elicit their beliefs on risk and time concerns of their assigned Recipient;
3. in the INFO-PRIVATE treatment ( $T_2$ ), subjects receive (exactly as in the baseline) information on risk/time individual choices of their groupmate, but no payoff externalities are imposed on others;
4. in the NO INFO-SOCIAL treatment ( $T_3$ ), Dictators make their intertemporal decisions for the pair without prior knowledge (or elicited belief) of the Recipient’s risk/time decisions.

Our design strategy allows to tease apart *social motives* from *social influence*. The comparison between the INFO-SOCIAL and the INFO-PRIVATE treatments allows us to determine whether informed Dictators change their decision more often when they act on behalf of the pair (social motives) compared with the

situation in which -whatever the reason- they can just mimic the behavior of their assigned Recipient (social influence), without imposing any payoff consequence on the latter.<sup>1</sup> Along similar lines, we can also compare the behavior of uninformed Dictators in the BELIEF-SOCIAL and the NO INFO- SOCIAL treatments so as to measure the impact of belief elicitation in the emergence of social (time) preferences. This is what Krupka and Weber [51] label as the effect of *focusing* on social preferences: guessing and thinking about the actions of others leads -in standard Dictator games- to focus more on the social norm and, as a result, more generosity is observed.

Following Rodriguez-Lara [64], our experimental design is built around the structural estimation exercise of Section 4.2, in which subjects' behavior is framed by way of a convex linear combination between the ("selfish") utilities of Dictator and Recipient. By contrast with the literature cited earlier, here weights reflect the Dictator's concerns about the Recipient's risk aversion and discounting. In this respect, our identification strategy crucially relies on the experimental design by manipulating subjects' incentives and information in the various stages of the experiment.

The remainder of the paper is arranged as follows. Section 2 reviews the relevant literature on these matters. In Section 3 we lay out our experimental design, whereas Section 4 reports our results. First, Section 4.1 reports some descriptive statistics on subjects' behavior in the various stages of the experiment. Here we show that *i*) Dictators' choices significantly move in the direction of their matched Recipients in our baseline treatment; *ii*) social influence is another important factor in explaining choices, in that Dictators tend to move in the direction of Recipients also in the INFO-PRIVATE treatment and *iii*) Krupka and Weber's [51] *focusing* effect is also relevant in the absence of information in that eliciting beliefs seems to trigger social preferences in the BELIEF-SOCIAL, compared with the NO INFO-SOCIAL treatment.

Section 4.2 tests the robustness of our preliminary findings by way of a structural model in which we frame subjects' choices within the realm of a random utility maximization problem, by which we can control for subjects' heterogeneity in risk preferences. We look both at subjects' *i*) individual decisions (and elicited beliefs) in Stages 1 to 3, as well as *ii*) Dictators' intertemporal choices in Stage 4. As for the former, our evidence is consistent with previous findings in that our subjects exhibit, on average, (Constant Relative) Risk Aversion (CRRA, Hey and Orme [45], Holt and Laury [46]) and non-exponential discounting (Coller *et al.* [24], Benhabib *et al.* [14], Andersen *et al.* [5]). In addition, we also find (consistently with Sutter *et al.*

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<sup>1</sup>The role of social influence was first studied in Psychology by Sherif [65] and Asch [12]. The economic literature on this topic includes papers on *informational influence*, that is, herding or observational cascades (see, e.g., Banerjee [13], Bikhchandani *et al.* [16] or Feri *et al.* [31]) and *normative influence*, that is, imitation based on moral judgement (see, e.g., Hung and Plott [48] or Moreno and Ramos-Sosa [60]). The interested reader on the comparison between these two behavioral phenomena can consult Goeree and Yariv [37] and the references therein.

[67] and Dean and Ortoleva [27]), that individual (own) risk and time preferences are strongly correlated, in that risk averse subjects are also more patient. Finally, we see that -once we control for risk aversion in our structural estimation- social motives outweigh both social influence and focusing, in that the estimated weight of the Recipient’s utility is positive and highly significant only when externalities and information are *both* present (i.e., in our baseline treatment). By contrast, the “social influence” conjecture (proxied by the estimated weight for the INFO-PRIVATE treatment) is only partially validated, since the estimated coefficient remains positive, but is only significant at 10% confidence, and only when we do not restrict our sample to pairs of Dictators and Recipients who satisfy minimal *consistency* conditions (see Section 4.1.3). Also for the focusing hypothesis, the estimated weight in the BELIEF-SOCIAL treatment is positive, but not significant.

Finally, Section 5 concludes, followed by Appendices containing information on the identification strategy, the experimental instructions, the debriefing questionnaire and supplementary experimental evidence.

## 2 Related literature

Notwithstanding our “social twist”, this paper sits squarely in the emerging literature that applies experimental methods to study the link between individual risk and time preferences (see, among others, Andreoni and Sprenger [10], [11], Halevy [38], Laury *et al.* [52]). In this respect, we borrow the methodology put forward by Andersen *et al.* [5] and control for the curvature of the utility function when eliciting discount rates. To this aim, a double MPL is employed to elicit risk and time preferences *independently*, that is, with two separate tasks: one MPL over lotteries paid off at the time of the experiment (Stage 1), another intertemporal MPL of certain monetary payoffs paid off at different times (Stage 2). Similar methods have been employed by Andersen *et al.* [4], [6], Harrison *et al.* [40], Cheung [22], Sutter *et al.* [67] or Frederick *et al.* [34], among others.

Andreoni and Sprenger [11], instead, apply an identification strategy between risk and time preferences in which subjects allocate a budget of tokens between risky prospects that reward at different points in time (see also Miao and Zhong [59]). With this design, the null hypothesis of risk neutrality is also rejected. Other methods to elicit time preferences are those of Benhabib *et al.* [14], where subjects are asked to elicit *intertemporal equivalents*, i.e., the amount of money that received today (in the future) that would make them indifferent to some amount paid in the future (today) or Laury *et al.* [52], where the elicitation of risk preferences does not require any assumption on the form of the utility function.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>2</sup>See also Andreoni *et al.* [9] or Harrison *et al.* [39] for a discussion on the different elicitation methods.

Along similar lines, we here mention an emerging literature that, by way of joint elicitation of risk and social preferences, claims that the empirical content of the latter may be severely reduced by the presence of some -strategic, or environmental- uncertainty (Winter *et al.* [69], [70], Cabrales *et al.* [20], Frignani and Ponti [35]).<sup>3</sup>

To the best of our knowledge, this is the first paper that elicits discount rates in a model of social preferences. The only related precedents we are aware of are the papers of Phelps and Pollack [61] and Kovarik [50]. Phelps and Pollack [61] propose an intergenerational model in which each generation cares about the consumption of future generations, which is discounted in a non-linear manner. Kovarik [50] collects evidence on the relationship between altruism and discounting, showing that donations in a Dictator Game decrease as the moment for receiving payments is delayed. This contradicts standard theories of time preferences, including exponential and hyperbolic discounting.

Last, but not least, given that our estimation strategy involves the joint elicitation of risk, time and social preferences by way of separate experimental tasks, our findings are to be compared with those of some recent papers that establish empirical correlations among these behavioral traits. In this respect, our finding are consistent with those of Sutter *et al.* [67], in that *subjects with a comparatively lower degree of risk aversion discount the future significantly more* (see also Burks *et al.* [18] and Dean and Ortoleva [27]). Because our debriefing questionnaire collects a wide variety of individual characteristics, we can also establish a positive correlation between the willingness to accept the delayed payment and the score in the cognitive skills, also reported by Anderson *et al.* [7] or Burks *et al.* [18].<sup>4</sup>

## 3 Experimental design

### 3.1 Sessions

Thirteen experimental sessions were run at the Laboratory for Research in Experimental Economics (LI-NEEX), at the Universidad de Valencia. A total of 624 subjects (48 per session) were recruited within the undergraduate population of the University. The experimental sessions were computerized. Instructions were read aloud and we let subjects ask about any doubt they may have had. All sessions ended with a debriefing questionnaire to distill subjects' individual socio-demographics and social attitudes.<sup>5</sup> Each session

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<sup>3</sup>Andersson *et al.* [8], Chakravarty *et al.* [21] and Harrison *et al.* [41] are further examples of the investigation of social preferences in the risk dimension.

<sup>4</sup>See Appendix D2.

<sup>5</sup>The experiment was programmed and conducted with the software *z-tree* (Fischbacher [32]). Translated versions of the instructions and the debriefing questionnaire can be found in Appendix B.

lasted, on average, 1 hour and 40 minutes.

## 3.2 Stages

Each subject participates to one of the four treatment conditions ( $T_0$  to  $T_3$ ). Stages 1 and 2 (common to all treatments) are used to elicit individual (own) risk and time preferences, respectively. After Stage 2, participants are matched in pairs. In one of the treatments ( $T_1$ , labeled as BELIEF-SOCIAL), subjects face an additional stage (Stage 3) in which we elicit their beliefs on (own) risk and time preferences of their assigned groupmate. Then, in Stage 4 (common to all treatments), we assign subjects the role of Dictator and Recipient, and all subjects go again through the same sequence of decisions of Stage 2. Our treatment conditions (Section 3.6) determine whether the Dictators' decision in Stage 4 is binding for the Recipient, and the information Dictators receive (if any) about the Recipients' decisions in Stages 1 and 2.

## 3.3 Stage 1. Own risk preference elicitation

We elicit subjects' individual risk preferences by way of a MPL in which subjects face the ordered array of binary lotteries of Figure 1. As Figure 1 shows, subjects face a sequence of 11 binary lotteries, one for each row. The entire sequence is characterized by the fact that the "risky" option (B) is increasingly more profitable, as the probability of the highest prize (€ 190, in our parametrization) grows in probability, and so is falling the expected payoff difference between options A and B. In decision 1 (11) lotteries are degenerate, giving probability 1 to the lower (larger) prize for lottery A and B, respectively. A risk-neutral subject should be switching from option A to B in decision 6, when the expected payoff difference between option A and option B goes negative. The higher the switching point, the more risk averse the subject is.

## 3.4 Stage 2. Individual time preference elicitation

MPLs are also used to elicit time preferences. In Stage 2 subjects go through 10 decision rounds, each of which is characterized by a specific time delay,  $\tau$ , ranging from 1 to 180 days. For each MPL,  $\tau$ , subjects face 20 binary choices,  $k$ , and choose between receiving € 100 in the day of the experiment (hereafter "today") and € 100  $((1 + \frac{i_k}{365})^\tau)$  in  $\tau$  days, where the sequence of Annual Interest Rates (AIR),  $i_k$ , constant across rounds,  $\tau$ , varies from 2% to 300%. Delays correspond to  $\tau = 1, 3, 5, 7, 15, 30, 60, 90, 120$  and 180 days. Figure 2 reports the user interface of the MPL corresponding to a delay of 100 days, the same used in the experimental instructions.<sup>6</sup> Contrary to other studies (e.g., Andersen *et al.* [5] [6], Coller and Williams [23],

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<sup>6</sup>The interested reader can see the full set of MPLs of Stage 2 in Appendix C (Table C1).

Figure 1: Stage 1 user interface

Phase 1. Choose one option (A or B) for each pair

<b>DECISION 1:</b>	A: 0% of 100 euros, 100% of 80 euros	<input type="checkbox"/>	B: 0% of 190 euros, 100% of 5 euros	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>DECISION 2:</b>	A: 10% of 100 euros, 90% of 80 euros	<input type="checkbox"/>	B: 10% of 190 euros, 90% of 5 euros	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>DECISION 3:</b>	A: 20% of 100 euros, 80% of 80 euros	<input type="checkbox"/>	B: 20% of 190 euros, 80% of 5 euros	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>DECISION 4:</b>	A: 30% of 100 euros, 70% of 80 euros	<input type="checkbox"/>	B: 30% of 190 euros, 70% of 5 euros	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>DECISION 5:</b>	A: 40% of 100 euros, 60% of 80 euros	<input type="checkbox"/>	B: 40% of 190 euros, 60% of 5 euros	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>DECISION 6:</b>	A: 50% of 100 euros, 50% of 80 euros	<input type="checkbox"/>	B: 50% of 190 euros, 50% of 5 euros	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>DECISION 7:</b>	A: 60% of 100 euros, 40% of 80 euros	<input type="checkbox"/>	B: 60% of 190 euros, 40% of 5 euros	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>DECISION 8:</b>	A: 70% of 100 euros, 30% of 80 euros	<input type="checkbox"/>	B: 70% of 190 euros, 30% of 5 euros	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>DECISION 9:</b>	A: 80% of 100 euros, 20% of 80 euros	<input type="checkbox"/>	B: 80% of 190 euros, 20% of 5 euros	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>DECISION 10:</b>	A: 90% of 100 euros, 10% of 80 euros	<input type="checkbox"/>	B: 90% of 190 euros, 10% of 5 euros	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>DECISION 11:</b>	A: 100% of 100 euros, 0% of 80 euros	<input type="checkbox"/>	B: 100% of 190 euros, 0% of 5 euros	<input type="checkbox"/>

Coller *et al.* [24]) the AIR is not shown to subjects in the user interface. Another important difference with respect to these papers is that subjects do not make a unique intertemporal decision (with different delays distributed between subjects). Instead, *all* subjects go through *all* intertemporal MPLs.<sup>7</sup>

Contrary to what happens in Stage 1, subjects make only one decision for MPL, in that they are simply asked to indicate their “switching point” (if any) from option A (€ 100 “today”) to option B (€ 100  $((1 + y_k)^{\frac{\tau}{365}})$  in  $\tau$  days). Thus, “time consistency” (see Section 4.1.3) within each MPL -but not across MPLs- is artificially imposed.

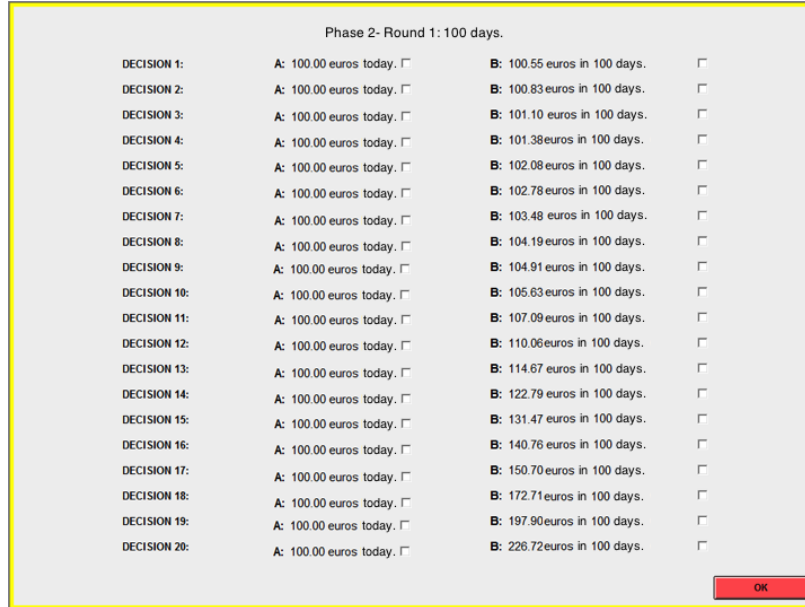
### 3.5 Stage 3. Belief elicitation (only for $T_1$ )

As we explained earlier, at the end of Stage 2 subjects are matched in pairs. In one of our treatments, ( $T_1$ , BELIEF-SOCIAL) subjects are asked to predict their matched partner’s decisions in Stages 1 and 2. Predictions are incentivized, as detailed in Section 3.8.

<sup>7</sup>This within-subject design has been also used by Tanaka *et al.* [68], Cheung [22] and Sutter *et al.* [67].



Figure 2: Stage 2 user interface



### 3.6 Stage 4. Social time preference elicitation

In Stage 4, for each matched pair, subjects are assigned the role of Dictator or Recipient (with the exception of  $T_2$ , where all subjects can be considered as “Dictators” of their own fate). All subjects are reminded about their own choices in Stages 1 and 2. Then, both Dictators and Recipients go through -once again- the same sequence of MPLs as in Stage 2.<sup>8</sup> Subjects’ information on others’ risk and time preferences -together with the presence of payoff externalities- define our treatment conditions, as follows:

- In our baseline treatment ( $T_0$ , INFO-SOCIAL: 6 sessions, 288 subjects), Dictators are informed about their partner’s choices in Stages 1 and 2 before making their decision for the pair.
- In the BELIEF-SOCIAL treatment ( $T_1$ : 2 sessions, 96 subjects) Dictators are reminded about their own predictions of Stage 3 before making their decision for the pair. As in  $T_0$ , the Dictator’s decision has payoff consequences for the pair in that the Dictator’s choice imposes a payoff externality on the Recipient.

<sup>8</sup>Also Recipients go through the same sequence of decisions, although it is made clear in the instructions that Recipients’ decisions have no monetary consequences on either party.

- In the INFO-PRIVATE treatment ( $T_2$ : 3 sessions, 144 subjects), all subjects receive information about the decision of their matched partner in Stages 1 and 2 exactly as in  $T_0$ , but no payoff externalities are imposed. Thus, all subjects choose again across all 10 decision rounds,  $\tau$ , the payoff they would like to receive for themselves (as in Stage 2).
- In the NO-INFO-SOCIAL treatment ( $T_3$ : 2 sessions, 96 subjects), neither Dictators receive information about the Recipients' previous decisions, nor we elicit the Dictators' beliefs about Recipients' behavior in Stages 1 and 2. By analogy with treatments  $T_0$  and  $T_1$ , Dictators' decisions have payoff consequences for their matched Recipients.

Figure 3 reports the Stage 4 user interface for our baseline treatment (INFO-SOCIAL). As Figure 3 shows, the top (bottom) screen provides information about the lottery (intertemporal) choices of Stage 1 and 2, for both the deciding subject (Player A) and her assigned partner (Player B), where the information about the latter refers to the Recipient's actual choice (or the Dictator's elicited belief) depending on the treatment condition. In the NO INFO-SOCIAL ( $T_3$ ) treatment the Player B column is hidden, in that Dictators make a decision for the pair without any information on the Recipients' decisions in Stages 1 and 2.

Figure 3: Stage 4 user interface ( $T_0$  to  $T_2$ )

Phase 1		Player A	Player B	
DECISION 1:	A: 0% of 100 €, 100% of 80 €	B: 0% of 190 €, 100% of 5 €	A: <input type="checkbox"/> B: <input type="checkbox"/>	
DECISION 2:	A: 10% of 100 €, 90% of 80 €	B: 10% of 190 €, 90% of 5 €	A: <input type="checkbox"/> B: <input type="checkbox"/>	
DECISION 3:	A: 20% of 100 €, 80% of 80 €	B: 20% of 190 €, 80% of 5 €	A: <input type="checkbox"/> B: <input type="checkbox"/>	
DECISION 4:	A: 30% of 100 €, 70% of 80 €	B: 30% of 190 €, 70% of 5 €	A: <input type="checkbox"/> B: <input type="checkbox"/>	
DECISION 5:	A: 40% of 100 €, 60% of 80 €	B: 40% of 190 €, 60% of 5 €	A: <input type="checkbox"/> B: <input type="checkbox"/>	
DECISION 6:	A: 50% of 100 €, 50% of 80 €	B: 50% of 190 €, 50% of 5 €	A: <input type="checkbox"/> B: <input type="checkbox"/>	
DECISION 7:	A: 60% of 100 €, 40% of 80 €	B: 60% of 190 €, 40% of 5 €	A: <input type="checkbox"/> B: <input type="checkbox"/>	
DECISION 8:	A: 70% of 100 €, 30% of 80 €	B: 70% of 190 €, 30% of 5 €	A: <input type="checkbox"/> B: <input type="checkbox"/>	
DECISION 9:	A: 80% of 100 €, 20% of 80 €	B: 80% of 190 €, 20% of 5 €	A: <input type="checkbox"/> B: <input type="checkbox"/>	
DECISION 10:	A: 90% of 100 €, 10% of 80 €	B: 90% of 190 €, 10% of 5 €	A: <input type="checkbox"/> B: <input type="checkbox"/>	
DECISION 11:	A: 100% of 100 €, 0% of 80 €	B: 100% of 190 €, 0% of 5 €	A: <input type="checkbox"/> B: <input type="checkbox"/>	
Phase 2 - Round 1: 100 days		Player A	Player B	Both
DECISION 1:	A: 100.00 euros today.	B: 100.55 euros in 100 days.	A: <input type="checkbox"/> B: <input type="checkbox"/>	A: <input type="checkbox"/> B: <input type="checkbox"/>
DECISION 2:	A: 100.00 euros today.	B: 100.83 euros in 100 days.	A: <input type="checkbox"/> B: <input type="checkbox"/>	A: <input type="checkbox"/> B: <input type="checkbox"/>
DECISION 3:	A: 100.00 euros today.	B: 101.10 euros in 100 days.	A: <input type="checkbox"/> B: <input type="checkbox"/>	A: <input type="checkbox"/> B: <input type="checkbox"/>
DECISION 4:	A: 100.00 euros today.	B: 101.38 euros in 100 days.	A: <input type="checkbox"/> B: <input type="checkbox"/>	A: <input type="checkbox"/> B: <input type="checkbox"/>
DECISION 5:	A: 100.00 euros today.	B: 102.08 euros in 100 days.	A: <input type="checkbox"/> B: <input type="checkbox"/>	A: <input type="checkbox"/> B: <input type="checkbox"/>
DECISION 6:	A: 100.00 euros today.	B: 102.78 euros in 100 days.	A: <input type="checkbox"/> B: <input type="checkbox"/>	A: <input type="checkbox"/> B: <input type="checkbox"/>
DECISION 7:	A: 100.00 euros today.	B: 103.48 euros in 100 days.	A: <input type="checkbox"/> B: <input type="checkbox"/>	A: <input type="checkbox"/> B: <input type="checkbox"/>
DECISION 8:	A: 100.00 euros today.	B: 104.19 euros in 100 days.	A: <input type="checkbox"/> B: <input type="checkbox"/>	A: <input type="checkbox"/> B: <input type="checkbox"/>
DECISION 9:	A: 100.00 euros today.	B: 104.91 euros in 100 days.	A: <input type="checkbox"/> B: <input type="checkbox"/>	A: <input type="checkbox"/> B: <input type="checkbox"/>
DECISION 10:	A: 100.00 euros today.	B: 105.63 euros in 100 days.	A: <input type="checkbox"/> B: <input type="checkbox"/>	A: <input type="checkbox"/> B: <input type="checkbox"/>
DECISION 11:	A: 100.00 euros today.	B: 107.09 euros in 100 days.	A: <input type="checkbox"/> B: <input type="checkbox"/>	A: <input type="checkbox"/> B: <input type="checkbox"/>
DECISION 12:	A: 100.00 euros today.	B: 110.06 euros in 100 days.	A: <input type="checkbox"/> B: <input type="checkbox"/>	A: <input type="checkbox"/> B: <input type="checkbox"/>
DECISION 13:	A: 100.00 euros today.	B: 114.67 euros in 100 days.	A: <input type="checkbox"/> B: <input type="checkbox"/>	A: <input type="checkbox"/> B: <input type="checkbox"/>
DECISION 14:	A: 100.00 euros today.	B: 122.79 euros in 100 days.	A: <input type="checkbox"/> B: <input type="checkbox"/>	A: <input type="checkbox"/> B: <input type="checkbox"/>
DECISION 15:	A: 100.00 euros today.	B: 131.47 euros in 100 days.	A: <input type="checkbox"/> B: <input type="checkbox"/>	A: <input type="checkbox"/> B: <input type="checkbox"/>
DECISION 16:	A: 100.00 euros today.	B: 140.76 euros in 100 days.	A: <input type="checkbox"/> B: <input type="checkbox"/>	A: <input type="checkbox"/> B: <input type="checkbox"/>
DECISION 17:	A: 100.00 euros today.	B: 150.70 euros in 100 days.	A: <input type="checkbox"/> B: <input type="checkbox"/>	A: <input type="checkbox"/> B: <input type="checkbox"/>
DECISION 18:	A: 100.00 euros today.	B: 172.71 euros in 100 days.	A: <input type="checkbox"/> B: <input type="checkbox"/>	A: <input type="checkbox"/> B: <input type="checkbox"/>
DECISION 19:	A: 100.00 euros today.	B: 197.90 euros in 100 days.	A: <input type="checkbox"/> B: <input type="checkbox"/>	A: <input type="checkbox"/> B: <input type="checkbox"/>
DECISION 20:	A: 100.00 euros today.	B: 226.72 euros in 100 days.	A: <input type="checkbox"/> B: <input type="checkbox"/>	A: <input type="checkbox"/> B: <input type="checkbox"/>

Continuar

### 3.7 Matching

Along the development of this research project, three are the matching protocols that have been used.

1. *Random Matching (RM)*. In this case, Dictators and Recipients are randomly matched, with no further restriction.
2. *Dissortative Matching (DM)*. In this case, we use data from Stage 2 to compute the average switching point per subject across all 10 decision rounds,  $\tau$ , where average switching point is taken as a proxy of individual discounting (the higher the switching point, the lower the discounting). We then match the most patient Dictator with the most impatient Recipient, the second most patient Dictator with the second most impatient Recipient, and so on. This design feature makes that Dictators are the most patient subjects in half of the couples, to provide sufficient dispersion/variability in the data minimize the possibility of matchings between subjects with very similar time preferences, thus making social preferences very difficult to identify.
3. *Efficient Random Matching (ERM)*. In this case, we impose that consistent Dictators are randomly matched with consistent Recipients whenever possible. This design enhances efficiency of our structural estimation exercise (see Section 4.1.3).<sup>9</sup>

Table 1 summarizes our treatment layout, including information on the number of sessions (by matching protocol) and the number of subjects (Dictators) in each of the treatments.

Table 1: Treatment conditions

<b>Cod.</b>	<b>Treat.</b>	<b>Info</b>	<b>Pay. Ext.</b>	<b>#Sessions</b>	<b>(RM/DM/ERM)</b>	<b>#Subj. (Dict.)</b>
$T_0$	INFO-SOCIAL	Yes	Yes	6	(1/ 2/ 3)	288 (144)
$T_1$	BELIEF-SOCIAL	Beliefs	Yes	2	(2/ 0/ 0)	96 (48)
$T_2$	INFO-PRIVATE	Yes	No	3	(1/ 1/ 1)	144 (144)
$T_3$	NO INFO-SOCIAL	No	Yes	2	(2/ 0/ 0)	96 (48)
<b>Total</b>				13	(6/ 3/ 4)	624 (384)

<sup>9</sup>We are grateful to two anonymous referees for expanding the scope of the paper and considering alternative matching protocols.

### 3.8 Financial rewards

All subjects receive € 10 just to show up. For the payment of Stages 1 and 2, we select at random one subject and one decision per session for payoff. By analogy, in Stage 3 we randomly pick one subject and one Stage 1 *or* Stage 2 prediction. A prize of € 100 is paid in case of a correct guess.<sup>10</sup> As for Stage 4, we follow the same payment protocol as in Stage 2: one matched pair and one decision is selected at random and both, the Dictator and the Recipient, are paid according to the Dictator’s choice.

All choices are paid at the end of the experiment, when we randomly select 2 subjects per stage for the payment of a randomly selected decision.<sup>11</sup> The show-up fee and the decisions for Stages 1 and 3 are paid in cash on the same day of the experiment. By contrast, we take extreme care with the payment of Stages 2 and 4, as we are concerned with the transaction costs associated with receiving delayed payments (including physical costs and payment risk). To make all choices equivalent except for the timing dimension, all payments are made by way of a bank transfer to the subjects’ account. This is to minimize transaction costs and equalize them across periods, including payments for subjects who opt for the payment “today”.<sup>12</sup> The dates of all delayed payments were set to avoid public holidays and weekends.

### 3.9 Debriefing

All sessions end with a (computerized) debriefing questionnaire including, among others,

1. *standard socio-demographics*, such as gender, that we code using the dummy variable **Female** that takes value 1 for females (it is 0 otherwise); the rooms/household size ratio, **RSR**, a standard proxy of the household wealth, together with the self-reported weekly budget, **WB**;
2. *proxies of cognitive ability*, such as Frederick’s [33] Cognitive Reflection Test (**CRT**), a 3-item task of quantitative nature designed to measure the tendency to override an intuitive and spontaneous response alternative that is incorrect and to engage in further reflection that leads to the correct response;

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<sup>10</sup>This, in turn, implies that our belief elicitation protocol is neutral to subjects’ degree of risk aversion (see Andersen *et al.* [3]).

<sup>11</sup>Although this method yields a compound lottery over the various stage decisions, there exists substantial evidence showing that this does not create a response bias (see, among others, Starmer and Sugden [66], Cubitt *et al.* [25] and Hey and Lee [44]).

<sup>12</sup>We run all sessions at 10 a.m. to ensure that subjects would receive the bank transfer the same day of the experiment if this was selected for payment. To control for credibility in the payment method, we add a formal legal contract between the legal representative of the laboratory (LINEEX) and the subjects who were selected for payment. This contract is privately received by the subjects in an envelop and includes a formal statement on a 20% compensation if payments do not take place at the stated date.

3. *proxies of social capital* drawn from the *World Values Survey*, such as self-reported measures of individual **happiness**, or personal inclinations toward **trust** (see Glaeser *et al.* [36]) and **inequality**.

## 4 Results

Section 4.1 provides summary statistics of our behavioral data, stage by stage, while in Section 4.2 we perform a structural estimation exercise, where subjects’ risk, time and social preferences are framed within the realm of a parametric welfare function consisting in a convex linear combination between the Dictator’s and the Recipient’s “selfish” utilities. Section 4.1.3 includes a discussion on the consistency of choices and how it affects our structural estimations.

### 4.1 Descriptive statistics

#### 4.1.1 Stages 1 and 3: risk preferences

Figure 4 plots the relative frequencies of subjects selecting the “safe” option (A) across all 11 lotteries in Stage 1 (all treatments) and Stage 3 (treatment BELIEF-SOCIAL). Figure 4 also reports optimal choices under Risk Neutrality (RN), which correspond to the lottery with the highest expected value (i.e., Option A in the first 5 decisions and Option B thereafter).<sup>13</sup>

As Figure 4 shows, subjects display aggregate risk aversion, in that switching to Option B occurs at a slower pace, compared with the RN benchmark ( $p < 0.001$ ).<sup>14</sup> As expected, we do not detect any significant treatment conditions using the Krusall-Wallis test ( $p = 0.148$ ).

#### 4.1.2 Stages 2 and 3: individual time preferences

Remember that, for each of the 10 delays,  $\tau$ , subjects must identify the minimum amount of money (if any) they would need to receive in the future against the immediate bank transfer of € 100. Figure 5 summarizes subjects’ behavior in stages 2 (all treatments) and 3 (treatment  $T_1$ ), with the vertical axis representing the distribution of “average switching points”, that is, the first decision (out of a sequence of 20) for which subjects express their preference for the delayed payment.<sup>15</sup>

<sup>13</sup>Figure D1 in Appendix D reports the same information by matching protocol.

<sup>14</sup>Unless otherwise stated, all reported  $p$ -values are derived from a (two-tail) Wilcoxon-Mann Whitney test between-subject and a Wilcoxon signed-rank test within-subject.

<sup>15</sup>If a subject always prefers the immediate payment, we assign this choice with “option 21”, which is also averaged out in Figure 5. Appendix D2 reports the relative frequency of choices in favor of the immediate payment for each possible delay.

Figure 4: Aggregate behavior in the lottery tasks

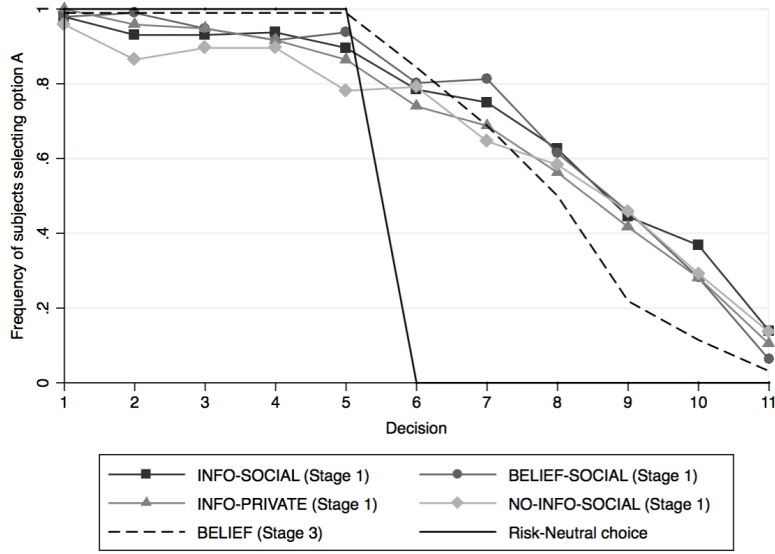
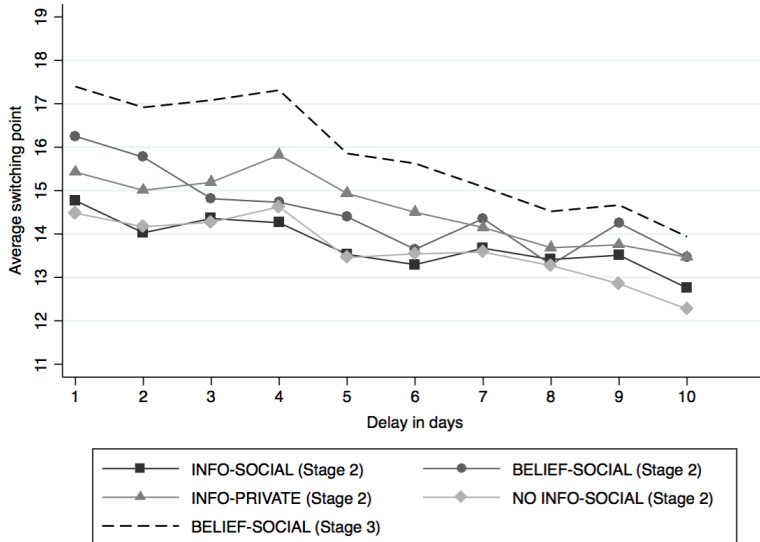


Figure 5: Aggregate behavior in the intertemporal task



As Figure 5 shows, average switching points decrease with delay (i.e., for increasing delays, subjects' indifference interest rate goes down). This evidence contradicts (is consistent with) exponential (hyperbolic) discounting, respectively.

### 4.1.3 Inconsistent behavior

To the extent to which, in the structural estimations of Section 4.2, we frame subjects' behavior within the realm of specific parametric models (along with all the implicit auxiliary assumptions that come with them), we are interested in a prior check on whether observed behavior satisfies basic *consistency* conditions compatible with our postulated theoretical setup.

In the MPL of Stage 1, standard behavioral restrictions (namely, monotonicity, first-order stochastic dominance and transitivity) require that subjects who face the MPL of Stage 1 satisfy the following

**Condition 1** *A subject should choose option A in the first row, option B in the last row, and switch from option A to B once -and once only- along the sequence.*

We also look along similar lines at the intertemporal decisions of Stage 2. Remember that we force subjects to switch at most once within each MPL, i.e., consistency is artificially imposed *within* delays,  $\tau$ , by the same experimental design. No further restriction is imposed by the experimental protocol when comparing choices *across* MPLs. In this respect, a natural requirement is contained in the following

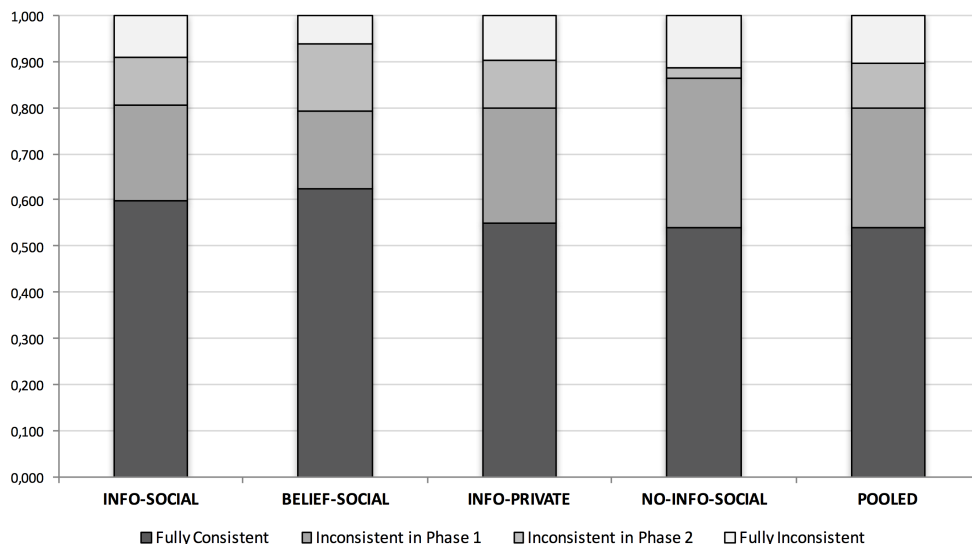
**Condition 2** *If a subject prefers € 100 today against any higher amount €  $x$  at some point  $\tau$  in the future, then, for all  $\tau' > \tau$ , she should never prefer €  $x' < x$  against € 100 today.<sup>16</sup>*

Figure 6 reports an overview of our data with regard to inconsistent behavior, as defined by both conditions 1 and 2. We consider four different categories, depending on whether subjects are in/consistent in the risk (Condition 1) and/or the time preference (Condition 2) task. As Figure 6 shows, roughly 60% of our pool (352 subjects out of 624) passes both our consistency tests, and we cannot reject the null that the distribution of in/consistent subjects is the same across treatments (Krusall-Wallis test, two-tail:  $p=0.98$ ).

Motivated by the evidence of Figure 6, we are interested in characterizing subjects' inconsistency by way of the observable heterogeneity that can be inferred by the debriefing questionnaire. To this aim, we first partition our subject pool in four groups, depending on their risk (intertemporal) in/consistency, respectively. Since our two proxies of consistency are strongly correlated (Spearman Beta=0.17,  $p < 0.01$ ), Table 2 reports the estimates of  $i$ ) the probability of being inconsistent in either task by way of a bivariate probit regression,

<sup>16</sup>Condition 2 is akin to what Tanaka *et al.* [68] define as “time-inconsistent behavior”.

Figure 6: In/consistent behavior in Stages 1 and 2



where the set of covariates includes proxies from the questionnaire and *ii*) the probability of failing at least one of our consistency tests (**incDUMMY**) against the same set of covariates by way of a standard logit regression.<sup>17</sup> As it turns out, both gender and cognitive reflection play a key role in our estimations. This is why we include in the regressions an interaction term, and also report our estimations by males and females.

Our findings suggest a positive (negative) significant effect of **Female** (**CRT**) on the likelihood of inconsistent behaviour in any of the two stages, as both marginal effects are highly significant. When we condition our estimates on gender, we observe that **CRT** has a significant (negative) effect, but only for females. By contrast, socio-demographics or social capital proxies have only a marginal impact in all regressions. This is consistent with previous results in the literature (take, e.g., Frederick [33] and Cueva *et al.* [26]).<sup>18</sup>

Once we have acquired a better grasp on the main determinants of inconsistent behavior, the next –rather delicate– question is what to do with those subjects who do not pass our consistency tests. This is because our behavioral paradigm –with specific reference to the structural estimations of Section 4.2– imposes much

<sup>17</sup>The reported marginal effects follow the approach put forward by Ai and Norton [2] and Karaca–Mandic *et al.* [49] in the estimation of marginal effects in nonlinear models that include interaction terms. We also run a probit regression (not reported here) with qualitatively similar results.

<sup>18</sup>The interested reader on the effects of cognitive reflection and gender in intertemporal preferences can look, among others, at Benjamin *et al.* [15] and Coller and Williamns [23].



Table 2: In/consistent behavior: regression results

	Inconsistent (Pooled Data)			Inconsistent (Males)			Inconsistent (Females)		
	Stage 1	Stage 2	incDUMMY	Stage 1	Stage 2	incDUMMY	Stage 1	Stage 2	incDUMMY
<b>Logit estimates</b>									
Female	0.602*** (0.137)	0.313** (0.148)	0.905*** (0.215)						
Cognitive reflection (CRT)	-1.022*** (0.343)	-0.033 (0.322)	-0.901* (0.486)	-1.015*** (0.341)	0.009 (0.316)	-0.903* (0.488)	-1.719*** (0.358)	-1.509*** (0.407)	-3.043*** (0.594)
Interaction (Gender x CRT)	-0.654 (0.490)	-1.430*** (0.522)	-2.134*** (0.767)						
Weekly Budget	0.002* (0.001)	0.002 (0.001)	0.004** (0.002)	0.002 (0.002)	-0.001 (0.002)	0.004 (0.003)	0.002 (0.002)	0.005*** (0.002)	0.004 (0.003)
Room Size Ratio	0.158 (0.098)	0.175* (0.093)	0.288* (0.171)	0.102 (0.148)	0.151 (0.145)	0.322 (0.264)	0.194 (0.139)	0.226* (0.122)	0.247 (0.222)
Happiness	-0.834*** (0.218)	-0.159 (0.216)	-1.013*** (0.339)	-0.640** (0.323)	-0.407 (0.329)	-0.907* (0.486)	-0.964*** (0.293)	0.015 (0.294)	-1.088** (0.478)
Trust (General Social Survey)	-0.494** (0.236)	0.047 (0.274)	-0.339 (0.375)	-0.176 (0.368)	0.325 (0.438)	-0.069 (0.567)	-0.696** (0.309)	-0.065 (0.361)	-0.555 (0.507)
Inequality Loving	-0.861** (0.415)	-0.041 (0.484)	-0.844 (0.663)	-0.318 (0.663)	0.410 (0.815)	-0.262 (1.051)	-1.198** (0.537)	-0.240 (0.607)	-1.288 (0.873)
Constant	0.410 (0.388)	-1.174** (0.475)	0.263 (0.636)	-0.141 (0.580)	-1.261* (0.761)	-0.317 (0.951)	1.367*** (0.509)	-0.964 (0.590)	1.637** (0.833)
<b>Marginal Effects</b>									
Female	0.392*** (0.028)	0.184*** (0.024)	0.470*** (0.029)						
Cognitive reflection (CRT)	-0.466*** (0.079)	-0.241*** (0.083)	-0.495*** (0.077)						
Obs.	624	624	624	277	277	277	347	347	347

Notes. Standard errors in parentheses \*\*\* p<0.01, \*\* p<0.05, \* p<0.1

stronger consistency conditions, whose violation may affect our numerical exercise in unexpected directions, whose interpretation goes well beyond the scope of this paper. In this respect, our analysis of individual behavior in Stages 1 to 3 (sections 4.1.4 and 4.2.1) follows the approach in Dean and Ortoleva [27] or Sutter *et al.* [67] in that we discard all observations from inconsistent subjects. This reduces our database to 352 subjects out of 624 (56%). As for the analysis of Dictators' choices in Stage 4 (sections 4.1.4 and 4.2.2), we focus the analysis on those consistent Dictators who satisfy Conditions 1 and 2. This reduces our database to 210 subjects out of 384 (53%). As some of these consistent Dictators might have received information about inconsistent Recipients in the INFO-SOCIAL and the INFO-PRIVATE treatments, we control for the inconsistency of Recipients in the regressions of Table 6. Along similar lines, in our structural estimations we also check whether Dictators' beliefs in treatment  $T_1$  satisfy the same consistency conditions. Table 3 summarizes the number of in/consistent pairs in each treatment. This includes information about consistent beliefs in treatment  $T_1$  and consistent Dictators in the NO INFO-SOCIAL treatment, where Dictators received no information about their matched Recipient.

Table 3: Number of in/consistent pairs in each treatment

	T <sub>0</sub>	T <sub>1</sub>	T <sub>2</sub>	T <sub>3</sub>	
	INFO-SOCIAL	BELIEF-SOCIAL	INFO - PRIVATE	NO INFO - SOCIAL	POOL DATA
Consistent Dictators	80 (0.55)	30 (0.62)	79 (0.54)	21 (0.43)	210 (0.55)
Consistent pairs (Dictators <i>and</i> Recipients)	58 (0.40)	27 (0.56)	54 (0.37)	.	.
Consistent Dictators, inconsistent Recipients	22 (0.15)	3 (0.06)	25 (0.17)	.	.
Inconsistent Dictators ( <i>or</i> Both inconsistent)	64 (0.45)	18 (0.37)	65 (0.45)	27 (0.56)	174 (0.45)
Number of Dictators	144	48	144	48	384

*Note.* There is no information about the Recipient in T<sub>1</sub> (BELIEF-SOCIAL) and T<sub>3</sub> (NO-INFO-SOCIAL), but we report in the table the number of pairs in which consistent Dictators have a consistent/inconsistent belief in the former treatment.

As Table 3 shows, not only the majority of the pairs (210 out of 384, 55 %) is characterized by a consistent Dictator -something we already know from Figure 6- but also that pairs with both consistent Dictators *and* Recipients are the majority within this subgroup (139 pairs out of 210: 66%). In treatments  $T_0$  and  $T_2$  this is partially due to the use of our *ERM* matching protocol in some of the sessions (see Table 1).

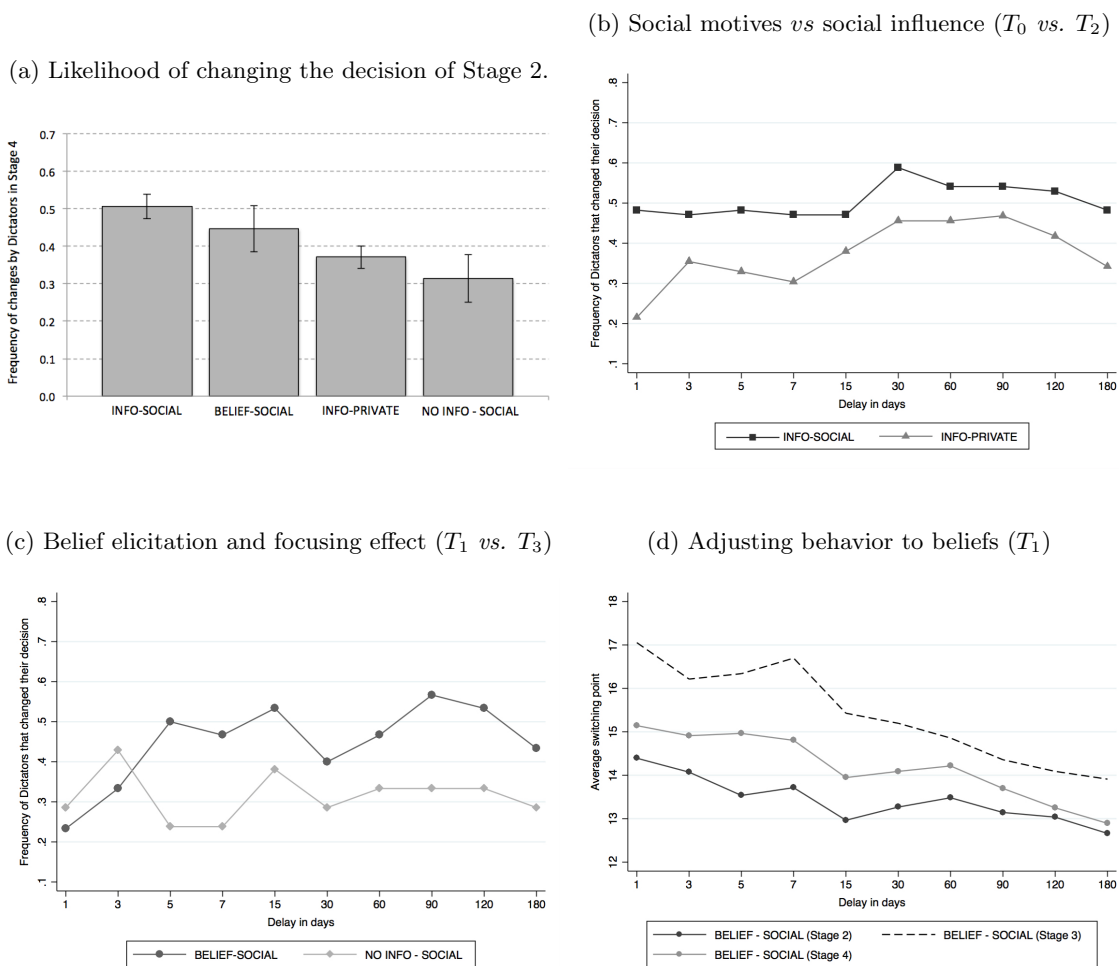
#### 4.1.4 Social motives *vs.* social influence. Some preliminary evidence

We begin our descriptive analysis of Stage 4 by looking at the difference between the intertemporal choices in Stage 2 and 4, to be interpreted as a necessary condition for the existence of social motives/influence. Panel (a) of Figure 7 reports the relative frequency of rounds where the decisions of consistent Dictators in Stages 4 differ from those in Stage 2. To assess the relative importance of social motives/influence, Panel (b) displays, for each time delay, the relative frequency of informed Dictators who change their choices in  $T_0$  (INFO-SOCIAL) *vs.*  $T_2$  (INFO-PRIVATE). Panel (c) looks directly at the focusing effect by showing the behavior in treatments with payoff externalities and no information ( $T_1$ : BELIEF-SOCIAL *vs.*  $T_3$ : NO INFO-SOCIAL). Further evidence on the effect of eliciting beliefs is presented in Panel (d), where we show how consistent Dictators move their switching point into the direction of their beliefs in Stages 2 to 4 of treatment  $T_1$ .

As Panel (a) shows, when Dictators are provided with information about the Recipients' decisions, changes in behavior are more likely in the presence of payoff externalities (INFO-SOCIAL: 50.6% *vs* INFO-PRIVATE: 37.1%) while, in the absence of information, Dictators tend to change their behavior more frequently if beliefs are elicited (BELIEF-SOCIAL: 44.7% *vs* NO INFO-SOCIAL: 31.4%).<sup>19</sup> Panels (b) and (c) confirm this

<sup>19</sup>Table D3 in Appendix D reports the estimated coefficients of a probit regression on the likelihood of changing the decision in Stage 4 controlling for Dictators' individual characteristics.

Figure 7: Dictators' decisions in Stage 4



preliminary evidence disaggregating our observations by time delay. As Panel (b) shows, informed Dictators are more likely to change their decision when the latter has payoff consequences for the Recipients. Therefore *social motives* seem stronger than *social influence* ( $p < 0.004$ ). On the other hand, Panel (c) shows that, without information, eliciting beliefs seem to trigger social preferences, in that Dictators are more likely to change their choices in the BELIEF-SOCIAL compared with the NO-INFO-SOCIAL treatment ( $p < 0.096$ ).<sup>20</sup>

<sup>20</sup>When doing pairwise comparisons, we compute, for each Dictator, the frequency of rounds in which the decision was changed and treat each Dictator as an independent observation. All our findings are robust if we restrict our sample to consistent pairs instead of consistent Dictators.

Table 4: Choices of Dictators in Stage 4 compared with those of Recipients in Stage 2.

	T <sub>0</sub>	T <sub>1</sub>	T <sub>2</sub>	T <sub>3</sub>	
	INFO-SOCIAL	BELIEF-SOCIAL	INFO - PRIVATE	NO INFO - SOCIAL	POOL DATA
(a) Frequency of Recipients' choices matched by Dictators who moved their choices in Stage 4					
Choices move towards the Recipients' choices	0.67	0.56	0.56	0.29	0.29
Recipients' choices are perfectly matched	0.15	0.09	0.14	0.06	0.06
Choices move against the Recipients' choices	0.18	0.36	0.30	0.65	0.65
(b) Tobit regression on the switching point in Stage 4: $\varphi_{P4}^{\tau} = (1 - \alpha)\varphi_{P2}^{\tau} + \alpha \varphi_{P3}^{\tau}$					
Estimates of alpha	0.262*** (0.049)	0.481*** (0.146)	0.116*** (0.027)	0.050 (0.041)	0.186*** (0.028)

*Notes.* In the Tobit regression,  $\varphi_{P_k}^{\tau}$  corresponds to the switching point of Dictators in Stage  $k = \{2,4\}$  when the future payment is delayed  $\tau$  days. The value of  $\varphi_{P_3}^{\tau}$  denotes the switching of the matched Recipient or the Dictator's elicited belief. Robust standard errors (clustered at the individual level) in parentheses: \*\*\*p<0.01, \*\*p<0.05, \*p<0.1

This latter evidence is in line with the idea of “focusing” put forward by Krupka and Weber [51], where belief elicitation has a positive effect on pro-social behavior. Finally, Panel (d) shows that Dictators believe that Recipients are more impatient than they are. Interestingly, Dictators in the BELIEF-SOCIAL treatment seem to weight their own preferences and beliefs about the Recipients' preferences and choose a switching point in Stage 4 that is roughly between the two. This evidence is perfectly in line with our treatment of social time preferences.

In our paper, we are not only interested in detecting a change of behavior between stages 2 and 4, but also the *direction* of such changes. One question to be addressed is then under which treatment the behavior of the Recipients is better matched by their assigned Dictator. In Panel (a) of Table 4 we disaggregate the evidence of Figure 7(a) by looking, by treatment, at the relative frequency of Dictators' choices that *i*) move toward, *ii*) perfectly match or *iii*) move against the Recipients' choices (belief) of Stage 2 (3), respectively. As Table 4 shows, with the exception of T<sub>3</sub>, a clear majority of choices in Stage 4 has changed with respect to Stage 2 in the direction of the Recipients' preferences.<sup>21</sup>

Panel (b) of Table 4 provides a quantitative assessment on the statistical significance of such changes by estimating a double censored tobit model (clustered for subjects) by which the switching point of Dictators in Stage 4,  $\varphi_{S4}^{\tau} \in \{1, \dots, 21\}$ , is calculated as a convex linear combination between own choices in Stage 2 ( $\varphi_{S2}^{\tau}$ ) and the information received or the Dictator's elicited beliefs, ( $\varphi_{S3}^{\tau}$ ):

$$\varphi_{S4}^{\tau} = (1 - \alpha)\varphi_{S2}^{\tau} + \alpha\varphi_{S3}^{\tau} + \varepsilon_{\tau}.$$

<sup>21</sup>See Figure D3 in Appendix D for the same evidence disaggregated by time delays.

As Panel (b) shows,  $\alpha$  is positive and highly significant in all treatments with the exception of  $T_3$  (NO INFO-SOCIAL), this confirming that Dictators' thresholds move in the direction of those of their groupmates, once they know (or they reflect upon) the others' time concerns.<sup>22</sup> This effect seems stronger in the presence of payoff externalities (where social motives apply), but does not vanish without them, as a further sign of the empirical content of social influence, too. Consistently with our finding in Figure 7, the estimated  $\alpha$  is the highest (lowest) in the BELIEF-SOCIAL (NO INFO-SOCIAL) treatments, respectively. In this respect, framing the decision of the Dictator *as an explicit choice between two selves* -whether actual or simply fictitious- seems to work as a necessary condition for a detectable change in behavior in the direction of the other's decision. When we look at the intertemporal choices of Stage 4, we indeed find that Dictators are more likely to follow their own choices of Stage 2 in the INFO-PRIVATE compared with the INFO-SOCIAL ( $p = 0.019$ ) treatment. Similarly, Dictators are more likely to follow their own choices in the NO-INFO-SOCIAL compared with the BELIEF-SOCIAL treatment ( $p < 0.037$ ) (see Appendix D3).

## 4.2 Structural estimations

The estimates of Table 4 show a significant shift in the direction of the Recipient's decision, conditional upon *i*) the provision of some explicit information (or belief) about the latter's decision, and/or *ii*) a modification of the incentive structure to experimentally induce payoff externalities. These considerations notwithstanding, the estimates of Table 4 look at our behavioral evidence on intertemporal decisions *only*, disregarding the information on individual risk preferences collected in Stage 1. As we already discussed in Section 2, this may introduce a confound -namely, Dictators' heterogeneity in own risk concerns- that our own experimental design can, indeed, control for. This is the reason why we test the robustness of our previous findings by means of some structural estimations in which we frame (consistent) Dictators' behavior as maximizing various parametric random utility functions, some related with the individual decisions of stages 1 to 3, others which include both the individual ("selfish") utilities of the Dictator and the Recipient as a result of some social preference -or social influence- process of joint utility maximization, depending on the treatment.

To this aim, we follow Andersen *et al.* [4] by conditioning our estimations upon the following stationarity condition:

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<sup>22</sup>The estimated coefficient for the NO INFO-SOCIAL treatment makes sense only within the realm of some "rational expectation" hypothesis, since Dictators are never informed about their matched Recipient's decision. Nevertheless, we report the  $T_3$  estimated coefficient for the sake of completeness, and also for a direct comparison with that of  $T_1$ , where also Dictators are not informed, but their beliefs about the Recipients' decisions are elicited.

$$u_i(M_0) = \Delta_i(\tau)u_i(M_\tau), \tag{1}$$

where  $u_i(x) = x^{1-\rho_i}/(1-\rho_i)$  is a standard (time independent) CRRA utility function and  $\rho_i \neq 1$  is the risk aversion coefficient. With this parametrization,  $\rho_i = 0$  identifies risk neutrality, with  $\rho_i > 0$  ( $\rho_i < 0$ ) identifying risk aversion (risk loving) behavior, respectively. As in Coller *et al.* [24], the discount factor is assumed to be  $\Delta_i(\tau) = \beta_i/(1+\delta_i)^\tau$ , with  $\beta_i = 1$  ( $\beta_i < 1$ ) in the case of exponential (hyperbolic) discounting, respectively. The estimations we report in the remainder of this paper follow a standard “maximum likelihood” approach, by which the estimated parameters (jointly) maximize the likelihood of observed choices in the different stages of the experiment, conditional on the structural parametrization (1) and the auxiliary assumption that choices made by the same subject across different stages are statistically independent.<sup>23</sup>

In Section 4.2.1 we collect pool estimates of (own) risk ( $\rho$ ) and intertemporal preferences ( $\beta$  and  $\delta$ ) using the evidence from Stages 1 to 3. As for social time preferences/influence, Section 4.2.2 estimates the weights of a social welfare function where individual (own) risk and discounting parameters are estimated separately for each subject participating to the experiment.

#### 4.2.1 Stages 1-3: individual choices

Table 5 replicates Table 2 in Coller *et al.* [24] by estimating pool parameters of our structural model (1) using observation from stages 1 to 3. Model 1 imposes  $\beta = 1$ ; i.e., it assumes exponential discounting for all observations. We remove this assumption in Model 2, which allows for hyperbolic discounting. Finally, we consider in Model 3 a “binary mixture model” that estimates -jointly with the other behavioral parameters,  $\rho$ ,  $\delta$  and  $\beta$ - the ex-ante probabilities, denoted by  $\pi$  ( $1-\pi$ ), that each individual observation is an independent draw from Model 2 (Model 1), respectively. The last line of Table 5 replicates our structural estimations using the evidence from Stage 3 of the BELIEF-SOCIAL treatment.<sup>24</sup>

We look first at the pool estimations (first row of Table 5). Our estimates for Model 1 qualitatively confirm those of Coller *et al.* [24] in that our (consistent) subjects exhibit significant CRRA and discounting. Similar considerations hold for Model 2:  $\beta$  is significantly smaller than 1, thus providing empirical content to the

<sup>23</sup>A detailed description of our identification strategy is presented in Appendix A.

<sup>24</sup>As we explained in Section 3, our belief scoring rule is neutral to the (CRRA) risk aversion parametrization, since subjects either win the price when they guess correctly, otherwise they get nothing. As a consequence, maximizing expected payoffs is equivalent to maximizing winning probabilities (i.e., our scoring rule only serves the purpose of eliciting the mode of subjects’ belief distribution). Under the assumption that subjects formulate their beliefs using the behavioral model in equation (1) that we use to frame their own behavior, we can map subjects’ beliefs into the same  $(\rho, \delta)$  behavioral space.

Table 5: Risk and time preferences: structural models of individual behavior (Stages 1 to 3).

	(1) Exponential discounting		(2) Hyperbolic discounting			(3) Mixture model			$\pi$
	Risk ( $\rho$ )	Time ( $\delta$ )	Risk ( $\rho$ )	Time ( $\delta$ )	Time ( $\beta$ )	Risk ( $\rho$ )	Time ( $\delta$ )	Time ( $\beta$ )	
<b>Private “own” decisions (Stages 1 and 2)</b>									
Pooled data	0.853*** (0.008)	0.898*** (0.099)	0.858*** (0.008)	0.261 *** (0.026)	.848*** (0.007)	0.825*** (0.009)	0.992*** (0.025)	0.690*** (0.014)	0.231*** (0.019)
INFO-SOCIAL ( $T_0$ )	0.874*** (0.012)	1.133*** (0.215)	0.878*** (0.012)	0.195*** (0.033)	0.860*** (0.011)	0.848*** (0.014)	0.837*** (0.028)	0.725*** (0.026)	0.244*** (0.035)
BELIEF-SOCIAL ( $T_1$ )	0.859*** (0.02)	1.133*** (0.214)	0.864*** (0.020)	0.219*** (0.069)	0.836*** (0.022)	0.837*** (0.024)	0.927*** (0.065)	0.634*** (0.025)	0.246*** (0.063)
INFO-PRIVATE ( $T_2$ )	0.829*** (0.015)	1.179*** (0.132)	0.833*** (0.015)	0.382*** (0.062)	0.861*** (0.013)	0.791*** (0.019)	1.151*** (0.050)	0.674*** (0.023)	0.173*** (0.032)
NO INFO-SOCIAL ( $T_3$ )	0.825*** (0.021)	1.682*** (0.231)	0.831*** (0.021)	0.335*** (0.072)	0.808*** (0.016)	0.799*** (0.026)	1.352*** (0.088)	0.687*** (0.023)	0.323*** (0.048)
<b>Beliefs about Recipients (Stage 3)</b>									
BELIEF-SOCIAL ( $T_1$ )	0.809*** (0.020)	1.259*** (0.163)	0.812*** (0.021)	0.495*** (0.103)	0.872*** (0.021)	0.766*** (0.026)	1.368*** (0.061)	0.742*** (0.048)	0.172*** (0.063)

*Notes.* Robust standard errors in parentheses \*\*\*  $p < 0.01$ , \*\*  $p < 0.05$ , \*  $p < 0.1$

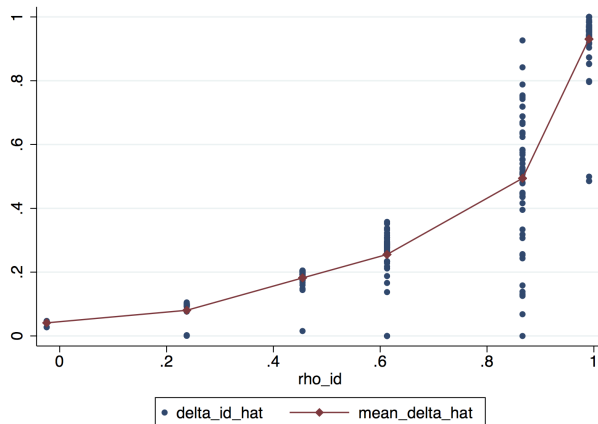
hyperbolic discounting hypothesis. By the same token, the estimated value of  $\delta$  significantly drops with respect to the estimate of Model 1, as it occurs in Coller *et al.* [24]. When we consider the mixture Model 3, defined as the probability-weighted average of exponential and hyperbolic discounting, we find that the probability of the latter model being the correct one,  $\pi$ , is estimated to be around 23% and highly significant. In this sense, we reject the null by which choices can be explained by exponential discounting only.<sup>25</sup> The estimates of the three models disaggregated by treatment suggest little variability across treatments, since we can never reject the null of joint equality of the estimated coefficients across treatments. Our estimates for Stage 3 in  $T_1$  show that  $\rho$  ( $\delta$ ) is not as high (low) as the corresponding estimate for Stage 2, which is in line with the descriptive statistics of Section 4.1: subjects believe that their groupmates are less risk averse and more impatient (for all models, the corresponding differences are always significant at at least 5 % confidence). Interestingly enough, our mixture model estimates reveal that subjects’ beliefs underestimate the relevance of hyperbolic discounting in their groupmates’ decisions, as the estimated value for  $\beta$  is significantly smaller.

We now move to between-subject heterogeneity, which we study by estimating our equation (1) for each

<sup>25</sup> We also note that our estimate for  $\pi$  is significantly lower than the one reported by Coller *et al.* [24] (point estimate: 0.59; std. err. 0.07; 95% confidence interval (0.45,0.74)). This, in turn, seems to be in line with Harrison *et al.* [6], where it is suggested that present-bias preferences may be less prominent than previously suggested by the literature. One possible factor driving our results is that we exclude inconsistent Dictators from the analysis, what may indeed affect our estimates of hyperbolic discounting (see Meier and Sprenger [58] for a discussion along these lines).

consistent subject. Due to lack of observations at the individual level, we can only get estimates for Model 1, where we impose exponential discounting. Let  $\hat{\delta} = \frac{1}{1+\delta}$  denote the individual discount factor. Figure 8 reports the scatter diagram of the estimated  $(\hat{\delta}, \rho)$  pairs characterizing each consistent subject participating to the experiment.

Figure 8: Individual parameter distribution:  $\hat{\delta}$  vs.  $\rho$



As Figure 8 shows, risk ( $\rho$ ) and time ( $\hat{\delta}$ ) preferences are strongly correlated: *more risk averse subjects turn out to be also more patient*. If we calculate the Spearman correlation coefficient between  $\hat{\delta}$  and  $\rho$  we get a value of 0.78 ( $p < 0.0001$ ). In this respect, our evidence is consistent with that of Dean and Ortoleva [27], Burks *et al.* [18] and Epper *et al.* [29].

#### 4.2.2 Stage 4: social motives vs. social influence

Dictators' choices in Stage 4 are framed as maximizing a welfare function consisting of a convex linear combination between their own and their assigned Recipient's risk and intertemporal concerns (precisely, the individual specific parameters reported in Figure 8):

$$v_i^k(\tau) = (1 - \alpha_i)\Delta_i(\tau) \left( \frac{x(\tau)^{1-\rho_i}}{1 - \rho_i} \right) + \alpha_i\Delta_j(\tau) \left( \frac{x(\tau)^{1-\rho_j}}{1 - \rho_j} \right), \quad (2)$$

where  $\rho_j$  and  $\Delta_j(\tau)$  correspond to the risk and discount individual parameters of  $i$ 's assigned Recipient,  $j$ . In this respect, our estimation strategy consists in two steps. We first estimate, the maximum-likelihood individual parameter profile  $(\rho_i, \delta_i)$  estimated using data from Stages 1 and 2, together with the elicited beliefs in Stage 3 for those subjects participating in the BELIEF-SOCIAL treatment. Once we have obtained



individual estimates for each subject, we estimate the probabilities that any given consistent Dictator  $i$  in Stage 4 resolves the same sequence of intertemporal decisions assuming that  $i$  is maximizing the welfare function (2), derived as the convex linear combination between the utilities of Dictator  $i$  and Recipient  $j$ , whether using directly  $j$ 's estimated parameters (treatments INFO-SOCIAL and INFO-PRIVATE), or the elicited parameters of Stage 3 (treatment BELIEF-SOCIAL).<sup>26</sup>

Table 6 reports our estimation results. Panel (a) does not condition on whether a consistent Dictator is matched with an in/consistent Recipient. Panel (b) estimates a constant and a coefficient associated with a dummy which is positive for matchings between consistent Dictators and inconsistent Recipients. In other words, the constant identifies the value of  $\alpha$  resulting from matchings between consistent Dictators and Recipients, while the dummy measures the effect, for a consistent Dictator, to be matched with an inconsistent Recipient.

Table 6: Structural model

	TR_0 INFO-SOCIAL	TR_1 BELIEF-SOCIAL	TR_2 INFO-PRIVATE	POOL
(a) Estimates of $\alpha$ for consistent Dictators (CD)				
Const.	0.739*** (0.214)	0.612 (0.999)	0.394* (0.204)	0.527 (0.413)
(b) Estimates of $\alpha$ for Consistent Dictators, conditioned on (In)Consistent Recipients				
Const.	0.758*** (0.270)	0.612 (0.999)	0.101 (0.102)	0.245 (0.457)
Inc. Rec.	-0.070 (0.292)	N/A	0.769*** (0.113)	0.589 (0.469)

Robust standard errors (clustered at the individual level) in parentheses: \*\*\* p<0.01, \*\* p<0.05, \* p<0.1

We look at Model (a) first. Here we see that -somewhat in line with the descriptive statistics of Section 4.1.4- the estimated value of  $\alpha$  is positive in all cases. However, it is significant (at 1% confidence) for treatment  $T_0$  (INFO-SOCIAL) and significant only at 10% confidence in the case of  $T_2$  (INFO-PRIVATE). Things are different when we condition our estimates to the consistency of the Recipient. As Panel (b) shows, the estimate of the constant in  $T_0$  remains positive and highly significant. The same does not happen in  $T_2$ , where we cannot reject the null of absence of social influence in our data as for the matchings

<sup>26</sup>Dictators do not receive any information (nor we elicit their beliefs) in the NO INFO-SOCIAL treatment, therefore equation (2) cannot be identified in  $T_3$ .

between consistent Dictators and Recipients are concerned. By contrast, the effect of being matched with an inconsistent Recipient is negligible (highly significant) in  $T_0$  ( $T_2$ ), respectively. This suggests that social motives are more important than social influence when we only consider pairs composed by consistent Dictators *and* Recipients. Along these lines, we find that the effect of being matched with an inconsistent Recipient is only significant for  $T_2$ , which explains why the unconditional estimate of Model (a) for  $T_2$  is significant. By contrast, we cannot reject the null for the INFO-SOCIAL data, which indicates that behavior of consistent Dictators in  $T_0$  does not seem to vary significantly depending on the consistency of their assigned Recipient.

To summarize, once we control for the Dictators' and Recipients' estimated risk aversion, both the effects of the social influence and focusing seem to lose force, compared with our social motives motivating theme. In particular, the estimated parameter in  $T_1$  is never significant, while in  $T_2$  is (marginally) significant only when we do not condition on the consistency of the Recipient.

## 5 Conclusion

Using evidence from a laboratory experiment, we have tested several complementary working conjectures on the influence of others in individual intertemporal decisions. According to the “social influence” conjecture, being simply acknowledged of the choices of someone else is sufficient to trigger a change in behavior; according to the “focusing” conjecture, forcing subjects to form beliefs over the time preferences of others is sufficient to move behavior in the direction of beliefs. Our motivating conjecture, instead, calls for social time preferences as a result of some conscious deliberation in which the others' intertemporal concerns are explicitly taken into account when decisions yield payoff externalities.

To different degrees, the descriptive analysis of Section 4.1.4 supports all these working conjectures, as changes in behavior (in the direction of the Recipient) are more likely in the presence of *i*) information about others' decisions (even in absence of any payoff externality), *ii*) belief elicitation (even in absence of any information about others' decisions) and *iii*) payoff externalities (especially in conjunction with information about others' decisions). The structural estimations of Section 4.2, however, favor social motives with respect to the other competing conjectures, especially when we restrict our attention to consistent pairs of Dictators and Recipients, that is, an environment more in tune with a well defined process of conscious deliberation. However, it should be noticed that *i*) this result has been obtained at the cost of a drastic reduction in the sample size, leaving unexplained the behavior of significant fraction of our subject pool and *ii*) since our structural model has been tailored around our social time preference working hypothesis, it is far from

straightforward how to interpret equation (2) within the realm of a model of “social cues” (“focusing”), in absence of a compelling structural link between the motives (the actions) of Dictators and Recipients, respectively.

As for avenues for future research, we consider our results as groundwork for exploring *endogenous* matching processes, where people -when considering intertemporal decisions with payoff externalities- may cluster or delegate time decisions depending on others’ (risk and) time preferences.

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Supplementary material

Social Motives *vs* Social Influence:  
an Experiment on Interdependent Time Preferences

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This document contains supplementary material on "Social Motives *vs* Social Influence: An Experiment on Time Preferences". More precisely, we present our identification strategy in Appendix A. The experimental instructions and debriefing questionnaire are presented in Appendix B. Appendix C contains the multiple price lists we used in our experiment to elicit time discounting. Additional results, robustness checks and more data analysis are reported in Appendix D.

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## Appendix A. Identification strategy

In what follows, we shall build up -Stage by Stage- our estimation strategy.

### Stage 1: Own (CR)Risk Aversion

Let  $L_0(k) = \{x_{01}, x_{02}; p(k), 1 - p(k)\}$ , and  $L_1(k) = \{x_{11}, x_{12}; p(k), 1 - p(k)\}$ ,  $p(k) = \frac{k}{10}$ ,  $k = 0, 1, \dots, 10$  be an MPL a' la Holt and Laury [?], [?].<sup>1</sup> Subject  $i$ 's decision in Stage 1 is a sequence of binary choices,  $y_i^k \in \{0, 1\}$ , where  $y_i^k = n$  if  $L_n(k)$  is selected in decision (row)  $k$ .

We denote by  $v_i(L_n(k))$   $i$ 's expected utility associated to lottery  $L_n(k)$  in Stage 1, that is,

$$v_i(L_n(k)) = \frac{(x_{n1})^{1-\rho}}{1-\rho} p(k) + \frac{(x_{n2})^{1-\rho}}{1-\rho} (1-p(k)), \quad (1)$$

where  $\rho$  denotes subjects' (CR) risk aversion coefficient.

Given (1), the probability of selecting lottery  $L_n(k)$  follows a logit distribution,

$$\Pr [y_i^k = n | \rho] = \frac{\exp [v_i(L_n(k))]}{\exp [v_i(L_0(k))] + \exp [v_i(L_1(k))]} \quad (2)$$

We note that in Stage I we do not impose any ‘‘consistency’’ condition in subjects' choice (i.e., we treat each decision as independent to each other when we evaluate the likelihood function for Stage 1). As we shall see, this is not the same as in the subsequent stage.

### Stage 2: Individual Discounting Elicitation

In Stage 2 subjects face a sequence of 10 MPLs, each of which is characterize by a specific time delay,  $\tau$ . Within each MPL,  $\tau$ , there is a sequence of 20 binary choices, in which the present payoff,  $x_0 = 100$ , is compared with a future reward  $x_\tau(k)$ , with

$$x_\tau(k) = x_0 \left( 1 + \frac{i_k}{365} \right)^\tau$$

of intertemporal decisions, with of the same pattern: choosing between  $x_0 = 100$  now or  $x_\tau(k)$  in  $\tau$  days, with  $t = 1, \dots, 20$ .<sup>2</sup> These 20 alternatives (of increasing value) are calculated as future values at time  $\tau$  with increasing (annual) interest rates  $i_k$  ranging from  $i_1 = 3\%$  to  $i_{20} = 300\%$ , i.e., subject  $i$ 's values for  $x_0$  and  $x_\tau(k)$  are  $v_i(x_0) = \frac{(x_0)^{1-\rho_i}}{1-\rho_i}$  and  $v_i(x_\tau(k)) = \Delta_i(\tau) \frac{(x_\tau(k))^{1-\rho_i}}{1-\rho_i}$ , respectively, where  $\Delta_i(\tau) = \delta_i^\tau$  ( $\Delta_i(\tau) = \beta \delta_i^\tau$ ) if we assume exponential (quasi-hyperbolic) discounting, respectively.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup>In our parametrization, we set  $x_{01} = 100$ ,  $x_{02} = 80$ ,  $x_{11} = 190$ , and  $x_{12} = 5$ .

<sup>2</sup>The delay refers to  $\tau = 1, 3, 5, 7, 15, 30, 60, 90, 120, 180$  days.

<sup>3</sup>In our experiment,  $i = (i_k)_{k=1}^{k=20} = (2\%, 3\%, 4\%, 5\%, 7.5\%, 10\%, 12.5\%, 15\%, 17.5\%, 20\%, 25\%, 35\%, 50\%, 75\%, 100\%, 125\%, 150\%, 200\%, 250\%, 300\%)$

By analogy with Stage I, the probability of selecting the delayed payoff when payments are delayed  $\tau$  days  $y_i^k(\tau) = 1$ , follows a logit distribution,

$$\Pr [y_i^k(\tau) = 1 | \rho_i] = \frac{\exp [v_i(x_\tau(k))]}{\exp [v_i(x_0)] + \exp [v_i(x_\tau(k))]} \quad (3)$$

In this stage, we do impose consistency within each delay meaning that if  $y_i^k(\tau) = 0$ , then  $y_i^s(\tau) = 0$  for all  $s < k$  and, similarly, if  $y_i^k(\tau) = 1$  then  $y_i^s(\tau) = 1$  for all  $s > k$ . However, we do not impose consistency across delays as discussed in Section ??.

### Stage 3: Belief Elicitation (treatment $T_1$ only)

In Stage 3, each subject has to make two different sets of decisions: one related to the lottery played by her matched participant in Stage 1, the other related with the intertemporal decisions in Stage 2. We shall look at each of them in turn.

#### Stage 1 prediction

Subjects face the full sequence of decisions in Stage 1, with each subject  $i$  guessing the choice of her matched partner  $j$ . Subject  $i$ 's decision in Stage 3 is then a sequence of binary choices,  $\hat{y}_i^k \in \{0, 1\}$ , where  $\hat{y}_i^k = n$  if subject  $i$  thinks that  $L_n(k)$  was selected by subject  $j$  in row  $k$ , where  $n \in \{0, 1\}$  and  $k = 0, 1, \dots, 10$ .

Denote by  $\pi_i(\hat{y}_i^k | y_j^k)$  player  $i$ 's monetary payoff associated to bet  $\hat{y}_i^k$  (conditional on  $j$ 's actual decision being  $y_j^k$ ), that is,

$$\pi_i(\hat{y}_i^k | y_j^k) = \begin{cases} (1 - \hat{y}_i^k)C & \text{if } y_j^k = 0; \\ \hat{y}_i^k C & \text{if } y_j^k = 1, \end{cases} \quad (4)$$

where  $C$  is a fixed prize (€ 100 in the experiment). As long as beliefs are incentivized using an incentive compatible mechanism (that is independent on the subject  $i$ 's degree risk aversion) we shall estimate subject  $i$ 's beliefs about  $j$ 's (CR) risk aversion  $\rho_j$  using the same behavioral model in (2).

#### Stage 2 prediction

Subjects face also the sequence of 10 MPLs in Stage 2, characterized by the delay  $\tau$ . Within each MPL,  $\tau$ , each subject  $i$  predicts the behavior of his/her matched partner. Again, subject  $i$ 's monetary payoff associated to bet  $\hat{y}_i^k(\tau)$  in  $\tau$  days (conditional on  $j$ 's actual decision being  $y_j^k(\tau)$ ), is given by (4). As a result, we shall estimate subject  $i$ 's beliefs about  $j$ 's discount rate  $\Delta_j(\tau)$  using the behavioral model in (3).

#### Stage 4: Social Time Preference Elicitation

We here assume that player  $i$ , the Dictator, brings from previous observation estimates of the risk and discounting parameters of her matched partner  $j$ . In the INFO-SOCIAL ( $T_0$ ) and the INFO-PRIVATE ( $T_2$ ) treatments, these estimates correspond to subject  $i$  observing what her corresponding pair  $j$  has actually done in Stages 1 and 2, whereas in the BELIEF-SOCIAL treatment  $T_1$ , the values of  $\rho_j$  and  $\Delta_j(\tau)$  are elicited in Stage 3.

We shall consider that Dictators make an intertemporal decision in Stage 4 maximizing a convex linear combination of individual (“selfish”) utility and recipient (“social”) utility; so that the Dictator’s final decision can be assumed to maximize the following objective function:

$$v_i(\tau) = (1 - \alpha_i)\Delta_i(\tau) \left( \frac{x(\tau)^{1-\rho_i}}{1 - \rho_i} \right) + \alpha_i\Delta_j(\tau) \left( \frac{x(\tau)^{1-\rho_j}}{1 - \rho_j} \right). \quad (5)$$

where  $\rho_j$  and  $\Delta_j(\tau)$  correspond to the risk and discount individual parameters of  $i$ ’s groupmate estimated (elicited) in treatments where information is provided (beliefs are elicited), respectively. In our specification,  $\alpha_i$  measures the relative weight of the other’s utility parameters (e.g., Mazzocco [?]). The value of  $\alpha_i$  determines then the importance of “social” time preferences for Dictator’s decision.

## Appendix B. Experimental instructions and debriefing

In what follows we present the experimental instructions (originally in Spanish) for the BELIEF-SOCIAL ( $T_1$ ) treatment. The instructions for the rest of the treatments are very similar but do not include the elicitation of beliefs (Stage 3 in the current instructions). The exact wording for Stage 3 in  $T_0$ ,  $T_2$  and  $T_3$  is presented at the end of this section (the original instructions are available upon request). Figures inserted in the instructions appear in the main text of the manuscript. In what follows, Figures have been omitted here to save space. Appendix B includes also the questionnaire that subjects faced at the end of each experimental session.

### Experimental Instructions ( $T_1$ )

This is an experiment to study decision making. We are not interested in your particular choices but, rather, on subjects' aggregate behavior. All through the experiment you will be treated anonymously. Neither the experimenters nor the people in this room will ever know your particular choices. Please do not think that we expect any particular behavior from you. However, keep in mind that your behavior will affect the amount of money you can win. The instructions will be read aloud. It is important that you understand the experiment before starting because this can help you to earn money. If you have any questions, raise your hand and remain silent. You will be attended to by the experimenter as soon as possible. Any other kind of communication during the experiment is strictly forbidden.

#### General Instructions

- The current experiment is composed by four stages. Before starting each of them, you will receive instructions that explain how the experiment unfolds in that stage and how you can earn money.
- After finishing the four stages, you will be asked to complete a questionnaire. Then, you will be announced your earnings privately.
- Because of participating and filling out a questionnaire you will receive 10 Euros in cash at the end of the experiment. Besides that, we will randomly pick 8 people in this room to pay their decisions during the experiment.
- Since everybody has the same probability of being selected for the final payment, we ask you to choose in each stage your preferred option, having in mind that this option could be paid to you at the end of the experiment.
- It is important for you to know that this is not a skill-test in the sense that there is not a correct

answer. Your choice will depend on your personal tastes, which do not need to coincide with the taste of other people in this room.

- Before starting the first stage, we would like to remind you that you can get part of your earnings in your bank account, as you were informed when you signed to participate in this experiment. You should provide us with your bank account at the end of the experiment to receive your earnings.

### Stage 1

- In this stage, we present you a list of lotteries that assigns probabilities to two different prizes.
- For each pair of lotteries in the list, Option A will always assign probabilities of earning the prizes 100 Euros and 80 Euros. Option B will always assign probabilities to the prizes 190 Euros and 5 Euros.
- Next, we show you a screenshot of Stage 1:

See Figure 1 in the main text

- Please look at decision 1. Option A offers a sure payoff of 80 Euros (with 100% probability) whereas Option B offers a sure payoff of 5 Euros (with 100% probability).

- Now, look at decision 2. In that case, Option A pays 100 Euros with 10% probability and 80 Euros with 90% probability. This means that if we pick a random number between 1 and 10, Option A would pay 100 Euros if the selected number was 1 and 80 Euros if the selected number was between 2 and 10 (both included). Option B would pay 190 Euros if the selected number was 1, and 5 Euros if the selected number was between 2 and 10 (both included).

- The other decisions are similar but note that as you move down in the table the probability of getting the highest payoff of each option increases. Thus, in decision 11 the Option A involves a sure payoff of 100 Euros and Option B a sure payoff of 190 Euros.

- In this first stage of the experiment we ask you to choose your preferred option (Option A or Option B) for each pair of lottery. Once you choose your preferred option in each row you should confirm your choice by clicking OK. Afterwards, please remain in silent and wait until the rest of participants finished this stage to start Stage 2.

**How much money can I get from Stage 1?** • At the end of the experiment the computer will randomly select two people to pay (in cash and at the end of the experiment) their decisions of Stage 1. Since the people who are paid are going to be randomly selected, everybody has the same probability of being selected for the payment, regardless of their decisions.

- If you are one of the two people who will be paid for Stage 1, the computer will randomly select one of the 11 decisions (i.e., one of the rows). The computer will show you the option that you chose in that case (Option A or Option B).

- Afterwards, the computer will automatically choose a random number between 1 and 10, and you will receive the amount of money that corresponds to your choice in the selected lottery.

- **Examples:**

Assume you are selected for the payment of Stage 1 and the decision 5 is randomly selected for the payment by the computer.

- Option A: 40% of 100 Euros, 60% of 80 Euros

- Option B: 40% of 190 Euros, 60% of 5 Euros

The computer will then pick up a random number between 1 and 10.

- If the number is 2, you will get 100 Euros if you chose Option A and 190 Euros if you chose Option B.

- If the number is 7, you will get 80 Euros if you chose Option A and 5 Euros if you chose Option B.

- If the number is 10, you will get 80 Euros if you chose Option A and 5 Euros if you chose Option B.

## Stage 2

- In this second stage we ask you to choose your preferred option between receiving an amount of money in your bank account in a “early moment” or an amount of money in your bank account in a “future period”.

- This stage has a total of 10 rounds. In each of them the “early moment” for receiving the money will always be the same: today. The “future period” for receiving the money will change across rounds, being of 1, 3, 5, 7, 15, 30, 60, 90, 120, 180 days from now.

- In each round you will see a list with 20 decisions. Option A always refers to receiving 100 Euros today in your bank account. Option B always refers to the future period, which will change across rounds. Next, we show you a screenshot for this stage. This is just an example. The numbers that will appear in might be different.

See Figure 2 in the main text

- Let’s consider the example above, where the future moment refers to 100 days. The first decision consist of choosing your preferred option between receiving 100 Euros today in your bank account (Option A) and 100.55 Euros in your bank account in 100 days (Option B). The second decision consists of choosing between 100 Euros today in your bank account or 100.83 Euros in 100 days. The same logic can be followed

as you move down. Thus, decision 20 consists of choosing between 100 Euros today in your bank account or 226.72 Euros in 100 days in your bank account.

- Please notice that once you choose Option B in one of the rounds, the computer will automatically select Option B in all subsequent decisions of that round. This is done because if you prefer an amount of money in a future period to 100 Euros today, you should also prefer any higher amount in the future period to 100 Euros today. In any case, you can choose Option A or Option B until you click the button OK.

**How much money can I get for this stage?** • At the end of the experiment the computer will randomly select two people to pay them (in a transfer to their bank account) their decisions of Stage 2. Since the people who are paid are going to be randomly selected, everybody has the same probability of being selected for the payment, regardless of their decisions (except those who received the money in Stage 1, how will be excluded from the raffle).

- If you are one of the two people who will be paid for Stage 2, the computer will randomly select one of the 10 rounds of this stage (1, 3, 5, 7, 15, 30, 60, 90, 120, 180 days) and one of the 20 decisions (rows) for the payment. If you chose Option A for the selected option, you will receive today the money in your bank account. If you chose Option B, you will receive the bank transfer with the amount selected the day chosen for the payment (we will explain you in detail how you will receive this money at the end of the experiment).

- To be sure that you will receive the amount of money today or in the future period in your bank account, you will receive a legal contract, which is signed by Professor Dr. Ismael Rodriguez-Lara of the University of Valencia, and the director of the LINEEX, Dr. Penélope Hernández Rojas. This document will be received by you anonymously if you are selected for the payment and will serve as a legal private contract between you and the experimenters and can be used in case you do not receive the payments.

- Since you can be selected for the payment of this stage at the end of the experiment, we ask you to choose your preferred option in each of the cases.

### Stage 3

- In Stage 3 the computer will randomly match you with other person in this room to form a couple (that will remain the same hereafter). One of the members of the couple will randomly be assigned by the computer as Player A and the other one will be randomly assigned as Player B for all the experiment.

- Regardless of whether you are selected as Player A or Player B, you will be presented with the same screens of Stage 1 and Stage 2.

- Stage 3 has a total of 11 rounds. In the first one (that we call Round 0), you will be shown the same



screen of stage 1. In the next rounds, you will be shown the 10 rounds of Stage 2 (each of these rounds correspond to the present payment of 100 Euros and the future payment of a larger amount in 1, 3, 5, 7, 15, 30, 60, 90, 120, 180 days).

- In Stage 3 we ask you to state your belief about the decision of the other member of your couple in previous stages. Thus, for the case of stage 1, you will need to state if the other member of your couple chose Option A or Option B in each of the lotteries. In the 10 rounds that correspond to Stage 2, we also ask you to state your belief about what the other member of your couple chose (i.e., you would need to guess when did he/she chose Option B for the first time, if he/she did it).

**How much money can I get for this stage?** • At the end of the experiment the computer will randomly select one couple of two people to pay them (in cash and at the end of the experiment) their decisions of Stage 3. Since the couple that is being paid would be randomly selected, everybody has the same probability of being selected for the payment, regardless of their type (player A or B) and their decisions (except those who received the money in Stages 1 and 2, how will be excluded from the raffle).

- If you are one of the two people who will be paid for Stage 3, the computer will randomly select to pay you either for your choices in Stage 1 or for your choices in Stage 2. Both stages are equally likely to be selected for the payment.

- If you are selected for the payment your earnings will depend both on the selected stage and the accuracy of your beliefs as follows:

- If Stage 1 is selected for the payment, the computer will automatically select one of the 11 rows for which you make a decision (all the rows are equally likely to be selected). You will receive 100 Euros if you guess correctly the decision of the other member of your couple. You will receive nothing if your guess is not correct.

- If Stage 2 is selected for the payment, one out of the ten rounds will automatically be selected for the payment. All the ten rounds (1, 3, 5, 7, 15, 30, 60, 90, 120, 180 days) are equally likely to be selected. Once the round is selected, you will receive 100 Euros if you guess correctly the point at which the other member of your couple switched from A to B. You will receive nothing if your guess is not correct.

#### **Stage 4**

- In Stage 4 you remain being matched with the same person in this room to form a couple. If you were selected by the computer as Player A, we will ask you to choose your preferred option between both members of the couple receiving a monetary payoff today in your bank accounts in a “early moment” or

both members of the couple receiving a monetary payoff in a future period in your bank account.

- As in stage 2 there are a total of 10 rounds. In each round, the “early moment” refers to a payment today in the bank accounts of both members of the couple, whereas the future period will change across rounds being of 1, 3, 5, 7, 15, 30, 60, 90, 120, 180 days from now.

- This stage of the experiment is therefore similar to stage 2 for Player A with one important difference: his or her choice refers now to a payment for both members of the couple. Player B will also need to choose his/her preferred option for both members of the couple but this decision will not be taken into account for the final payment, which would only depend on the Player A’s choice for both members of the couple.

- Regardless of whether you are Player A or Player B, you will be informed about your decisions in stage 2 of the experiment. You will also be informed about your stated beliefs of stage 3. Next, we show you a screenshot of this stage. The numbers that you will see in the experiment might be different to these ones.

See Figure 3 in the main text

- At the top of the screen you can see what Player A chooses and what he/she thinks that Player B did in the first part of the experiment (the first column always refer to your decision and the second to the other member’s one). Player A’s decisions and his/her beliefs for stage 2 are summarized at the bottom of the screen.

- In this stage, each player would need to choose his/her preferred option for the payment that involves both members of the couple in the column “Both”. Using the same procedure of Stage 2, once Option B is selected in a round, this will be selected in all subsequent decisions of that round. This is done because if you prefer that both members of the couple receive an amount of money in a future period of 100 Euros today, you should also prefer any higher amount for both members in the future period to 100 Euros today. In any case, you can choose Option A or Option B until you click the button OK.

**How much money can I get for this stage?** • At the end of the experiment the computer will randomly select one of the couples of two people to pay them (in a transfer to their bank account) the Player A’s choice for Stage 4. Since the couple that is going to be selected for the payment will be randomly selected, everybody has the same probability of being selected for the payment, regardless of their decisions (except those who received the money in previous stages that will be excluded from the raffle).

- If you are one of the two people who will be paid for Stage 4, the computer will randomly select one of the 10 rounds of this stage (1, 3, 5, 7, 15, 30, 60, 90, 120, 180 days) and one of the 20 decisions (rows) for the payment. If Player A chose Option A for the option that will be paid, both members of the couple will

receive today the money in their bank account. If Player A chose Option B, both members of the couple will receive the bank transfer with the amount selected the day chosen for the payment (we will explain you in detail how you will receive this money at the end of the experiment).

- To be sure that you will receive the amount of money today or in the future period in your bank account, you will receive a legal contract, which is signed by Professor Dr. Ismael Rodriguez-Lara of the University of Valencia, and the director of the LINEEX, Dr. Penélope Hernández Rojas. This document will be received by you anonymously if you are selected for the payment and will serve as a legal private contract between you and the experimenters and can be used in case you do not receive the payments.

- Since you can be selected for the payment of this stage at the end of the experiment, we ask you to choose your preferred option in each of the cases.

### **Experimental Instructions (rest of the treatments)**

The general instructions for  $T_0$ ,  $T_2$  and  $T_3$  are very similar to the ones above, except that there are now 3 stages. Stages 1 and 2 are the same as in  $T_1$ . The exact wording for Stage 3 depends on the treatment as follows:

#### **Stage 3: INFO-SOCIAL ( $T_0$ )**

- In Stage 3 you will be match you with other person in this room to form a couple (that will remain the same during this stage). One of the members of the couple will be assigned by the computer as Player A and the other one will be assigned as Player B for all the experiment.

- If you were selected by the computer as Player A, we will ask you to choose your preferred option between both members of the couple receiving a monetary payoff today in your bank accounts in a “early moment” or both members of the couple receiving a monetary payoff in a future period in your bank account.

- As in stage 2 there are a total of 10 rounds. In each round, the “early moment” refers to a payment today in the bank accounts of both members of the couple, whereas the future period will change across rounds being of 1, 3, 5, 7, 15, 30, 60, 90, 120, 180 days from now.

- This stage of the experiment is therefore similar to stage 2 for Player A with one important difference: his or her choice refers now to a payment for both members of the couple. Player B will also need to choose his/her preferred option for both members of the couple but this decision will not be taken into account for the final payment, which would only depend on the Player A’s choice for both members of the couple.

- Regardless of whether you are Player A or Player B, you will be informed about your decisions in stage 1 and 2 of the experiment. Next, we show you a screenshot of this stage. The numbers that you will see in

the experiment might be different to these ones.

See Figure 3 in the main text

- At the top of the screen you can see what Player A and Player B chose in the first stage (the first column always refer to your decision and the second to the other member's one). Players decisions for stage 2 are summarized at the bottom of the screen.

- In this stage, each player would need to choose his/her preferred option for the payment that involves both members of the couple in the column "Both". Using the same procedure of Stage 2, once Option B is selected in a round, this will be selected in all subsequent decisions of that round. This is done because if you prefer that both members of the couple receive an amount of money in a future period of 100 Euros today, you should also prefer any higher amount for both members in the future period to 100 Euros today. In any case, you can choose Option A or Option B until you click the button OK.

### **Stage 3: INFO-PRIVATE ( $T_2$ )**

- In Stage 3 you will be match you with other person in this room to form a couple (that will remain the same during this stage). One of the members of the couple will be assigned by the computer as Player A and the other one will be assigned as Player B for all the experiment.

- Regardless of whether you are selected as Player A or Player B, we will ask you to choose your preferred option between receiving a monetary payoff today in your bank account in a "early moment" or receiving a monetary payoff in a future period in your bank account.

- As in stage 2 there are a total of 10 rounds. In each round, the "early moment" refers to a payment today in the bank accounts of both members of the couple, whereas the future period will change across rounds being of 1, 3, 5, 7, 15, 30, 60, 90, 120, 180 days from now.

- This stage of the experiment is therefore similar to stage 2 with the only difference that now you will be informed about the preferred option of both members of the couple in Stages 1 and 2.

- Next, we show you a screenshot of this stage. The numbers that you will see in the experiment might be different to these ones.

See Figure 3 in the main text

- At the top of the screen you can see what Player A and Player B chose in the first stage (the first column always refer to your decision and the second to the other member's one). Players decisions for stage 2 are summarized at the bottom of the screen.

- In this stage, each player would need to choose his/her preferred option for the payment in the last column. The choice may be the same as or different to the one of Stage 2. This choice will only affect your payoffs for Stage 4 (that is, even if you observe what the other member of the pair did, he/she will not be affected by your choice in Stage 4, nor you will be affected by his/her decision). Using the same procedure of Stage 2, once Option B is selected in a round, this will be selected in all subsequent decisions of that round. This is done because if you prefer that both members of the couple receive an amount of money in a future period of 100 Euros today, you should also prefer any higher amount for both members in the future period to 100 Euros today. In any case, you can choose Option A or Option B until you click the button OK.

### **Stage 3: NO INFO-SOCIAL ( $T_3$ )**

- In Stage 3 you will be match you with other person in this room to form a couple (that will remain the same during this stage). One of the members of the couple will be assigned by the computer as Player A and the other one will be assigned as Player B for all the experiment.

- If you were selected by the computer as Player A, we will ask you to choose your preferred option between both members of the couple receiving a monetary payoff today in your bank accounts in a “early moment” or both members of the couple receiving a monetary payoff in a future period in your bank account.

- As in stage 2 there are a total of 10 rounds. In each round, the “early moment” refers to a payment today in the bank accounts of both members of the couple, whereas the future period will change across rounds being of 1, 3, 5, 7, 15, 30, 60, 90, 120, 180 days from now.

- This stage of the experiment is therefore similar to stage 2 for Player A with one important difference: his or her choice refers now to a payment for both members of the couple. Player B will also need to choose his/her preferred option for both members of the couple but this decision will not be taken into account for the final payment, which would only depend on the Player A’s choice for both members of the couple.

- Before making your choices for the couple, you will be informed about your decisions in stage 1 and 2 of the experiment. Next, we show you a screenshot of this stage. The numbers that you will see in the experiment might be different to these ones.

See Figure 3 in the main text

- At the top of the screen you can see your choices in Stage 1. Your choices for stage 2 are summarized at the bottom of the screen.

- In this stage, each player would need to choose his/her preferred option for the payment that involves both members of the couple in the column “Both”. Using the same procedure of Stage 2, once Option B

is selected in a round, this will be selected in all subsequent decisions of that round. This is done because if you prefer that both members of the couple receive an amount of money in a future period of 100 Euros today, you should also prefer any higher amount for both members in the future period to 100 Euros today. In any case, you can choose Option A or Option B until you click the button OK.

## Debriefing questionnaire

At the end of each session, subjects were asked to answer a detailed questionnaire from which we distilled the following variables, which are used in Section ??.

Q1: What is your age?. . . years.

Q2: What is your gender?

(00 male, 01 female)

Q3: Which is your university degree?. . .

( 01 Economics, 02 Jurisprudence, 03 Political science, 04 Other)

Q4: How many years have you been studying at the university?

( 00 Graduate)

Q5: What is the highest level of education you expect to complete?

( 01 Laurea triennale, 02 Laurea specialistica, 03 Master/PhD)

Q6: What was the highest level of education that your father completed?

(00 Nothing, 01 Elementary, 02 Middle school, 03 High school, 04 University, 05 Master/PhD)

Q7: What was the highest level of education that your mother completed?

(00 Nothing, 01 Elementary, 02 Middle school, 03 High school, 04 University, 05 Master/PhD)

Q8: What is your marital status?

(00 Single, never married, 01 Married, 03: separated/divorced/widowed)

Q9: What is your relationship with the main income source in your household?

(01 Me, 02 Housband/wife, 03 son/daughter, 04 Father, 05Mother, 06 No family relationship, 07 No relation)

Q10: What was the education level of the main income source in your household?

(00 Nothing, 01 Elementary, 02 Middle school, 03 High school, 04 University, 05 Master/PhD)

Q11: What is the occupation of the main income source in your household?

(01 pensioner, 02 Unemployed(searching work), 03 Unemployed (no searching work), 04 self-employed, 05 employee, 06 Student, 07 housewife, 08 Other)

Q12: How many people live in your household?\_\_NUMBER

Q13: How many rooms does the house you are living in?\_\_NUMBER

Q14: Did you work during the last week?

(00 no, 01 (<5 hours), 02 (5-10 h), 03 (10-15h), 04 (15-30h), 05 (>30h))

Q15: On average, what is your weekly budget?

Q16: Do you currently smoke cigarettes?

( 01 yes, 02 no)

Q17: If yes, approximately how much do you smoke in one day? (Cigarettes)

Q18: A bat and a ball cost e 1.10 in total. The bat costs e 1.00 more than the ball. How many cents does the ball costs? . . . cents.

(Answer: 5)

Q19: If it takes 5 machines, 5 min to make 5 widgets, How many minutes would it take 100 machines to make 100 widgets?. . .minutes.

(Answer: 5)

Q20: In a lake, there is a patch of lily pads. Every day, the patch doubles in size. If it takes 48 days for the patch to cover the entire lake, how many days would it take for the patch to cover half of the lake . . . days.

(Answer: 47)

Q21: "I believe that fate will mostly control what happens to me in the years ahead."

(01 Strongly disagree, 02 Disagree, 03 Slightly disagree, 04 Slightly agree, 05 Agree, 06 Strongly Agree)

Q22: "I am usually able to protect my personal interests."

Q23: "When I get what I want, it's usually because I'm lucky."

Q24: "In order to have my plans work, I make sure that they fit in with the desires of people who have power over me."

Q25: "I have mostly determined what has happened to me in my life so far."

Q26: "Whether or not I get into a car accident depends mostly on the other drivers."

Q27: "Chance occurrences determined most of the important events in my past."

Q28: "I feel like other people will mostly determine what happens to me in the future."

Q29: "When I make plans, I am almost certain to make them work."

Q30: "Getting what I want requires pleasing those people above me."

Q31: "Whether or not I get into a car accident depends mostly on how good a driver I am."

Q32: "Often there is no chance of protecting my personal interests from bad luck."

Q33: "When I get what I want, it's usually because I worked hard for it."

Q34: "Most of my personal history was controlled by other people who had power over me."

Q35: "Whether or not I get into a car accident is mostly a matter of luck."

Q36: "I think that I will mostly control what happens to me in future years."

Q37: "People like myself have very little chance of protecting our personal interests when they conflict with those of strong pressure groups."

Q38: "It's not always wise for me to plan too far ahead because many things turn out to be a matter of good or bad fortune."

Q39: "How do you feel in this moment with your life?"

(1-7-scaled answer from 1 (very satisfied) to 7 (Not at all satisfied))

Q40: Taking everything into consideration, would you call yourself...

(01 not very happy, 02 quite happy, 03 very happy)

Q41: Do you discuss about political issues with friends?

(00 Never, 01 Sometimes, 02 Frequently)

Q42: Generally speaking, would you say that most people can be trusted or that you need to be very careful in dealing with people?

(01 Most people can be trusted, 02 Need to be very careful)

Q43: Consider the following situation: Two secretaries with the same age do exactly the same work. However, one of them earns 20 euros per week more than the other. The one that is paid more is more efficient and faster, while working. Do you believe it is fair that one earns more than the other?

( 00 No, 01 Yes)

Q44: Generally speaking, earned income should be...

(1-7-scaled answer from 1(equal) to 7 (max incentive))

Q45: Independently of the qualities and deficiencies of parents,

(1-7 scaled from 1 "they should always be loved and respected" to 7 "Parents who have not earned the love by their attitudes and behavior should not be loved")

Q46: Parent's duty toward children...

(1-7-scaled from 1 "Parent's duty is to give the best for their children, even to sacrifice their welfare" to 7 "they should live their life, they can renounce to their wealth")



## Appendix C: MPL of Stage 2

We follow Coller and Williams [5] in eliciting time preferences (see also Anderson *et al.* [1] [2], Coller *et al.* [6] or Meier and Sprenger [7]). In our design, subjects face 10 MPL. Each of these MPL gives subjects the possibility of receiving 100 Euros "today" against the possibility of receiving a larger payoff in  $\tau = 1, 3, 5, 7, 15, 30, 60, 90, 120, 180$  days. In order to calculate the payoffs for each particular delay,  $\tau$ , we use the same annual interest rate (AIR), ranging from 2% to 300%. We detail in Table C1 all the different alternatives.

Table C1. Payoffs in the MPL (Stage 2)

	(Today)	(AIR)	(1 day)	(3 days)	(5 days)	(7 days)	(15 days)	(30 days)	(60 days)	(90 days)	(120 days)	(180 days)
<b>1</b>	100	2.00%	100.01	100.02	100.03	100.04	100.08	100.16	100.33	100.49	100.66	100.99
<b>2</b>	100	3.00%	100.01	100.02	100.04	100.06	100.12	100.25	100.49	100.74	100.99	101.49
<b>3</b>	100	4.00%	100.01	100.03	100.05	100.08	100.16	100.33	100.66	100.99	101.32	101.99
<b>4</b>	100	5.00%	100.01	100.04	100.07	100.10	100.21	100.41	100.83	101.24	101.66	102.50
<b>5</b>	100	7.50%	100.02	100.06	100.10	100.14	100.31	100.62	101.24	101.87	102.50	103.77
<b>6</b>	100	10.00%	100.03	100.08	100.14	100.19	100.41	100.83	101.66	102.50	103.34	105.05
<b>7</b>	100	12.50%	100.03	100.10	100.17	100.24	100.51	101.03	102.08	103.13	104.19	106.36
<b>8</b>	100	15.00%	100.04	100.12	100.21	100.29	100.62	101.24	102.50	103.77	105.05	107.68
<b>9</b>	100	17.50%	100.05	100.14	100.24	100.34	100.72	101.45	102.92	104.41	105.92	109.01
<b>10</b>	100	20.00%	100.05	100.16	100.27	100.38	100.83	101.66	103.34	105.05	106.79	110.36
<b>11</b>	100	25.00%	100.07	100.21	100.34	100.48	101.03	102.08	104.19	106.36	108.56	113.12
<b>12</b>	100	35.00%	100.10	100.29	100.48	100.67	101.45	102.92	105.92	109.01	112.19	118.83
<b>13</b>	100	50.00%	100.14	100.41	100.69	100.96	102.07	104.19	108.56	113.11	117.85	127.94
<b>14</b>	100	75.00%	100.21	100.62	101.03	101.45	103.13	106.35	113.11	120.29	127.93	144.70
<b>15</b>	100	100.00%	100.27	100.82	101.38	101.93	104.19	108.55	117.84	127.92	138.86	163.64
<b>16</b>	100	125.00%	100.34	101.03	101.72	102.42	105.26	110.80	122.77	136.03	150.72	185.04
<b>17</b>	100	150.00%	100.41	101.24	102.07	102.91	106.34	113.09	127.90	144.64	163.58	209.22
<b>18</b>	100	200.00%	100.55	101.65	102.77	103.90	108.54	117.81	138.80	163.53	192.66	267.41
<b>19</b>	100	250.00%	100.68	102.07	103.47	104.89	110.78	122.73	150.62	184.84	226.85	341.67
<b>20</b>	100	300.00%	100.82	102.49	104.18	105.90	113.06	127.83	163.42	208.90	267.05	436.41

*Note.* The column (AIR) reports the annual interest rates that were used to compute the future payoffs for each possible delay.

Notice that, when the payment is delayed  $\tau = 1$  day, the (AIR) for rows 1 to 4 yields the same payoff; i.e., subjects are offered 100,01 Euros for any AIR between 2% and 5%, since our rounding rule does not allow to discriminate between such small differences in payoff when interest is low and delay is short. This is why, when we compute the "average switching point" (see Figure 5 in the main text), we assume that switching in any of these options is like switching in row 2.5 (for an interest rate of 3,5%). The same logic is followed if the payment is delayed  $\tau = 1$  day ( $\tau = 3$ ) for rows 6 and 7, and 9 and 10 (rows 1 and 2), respectively.

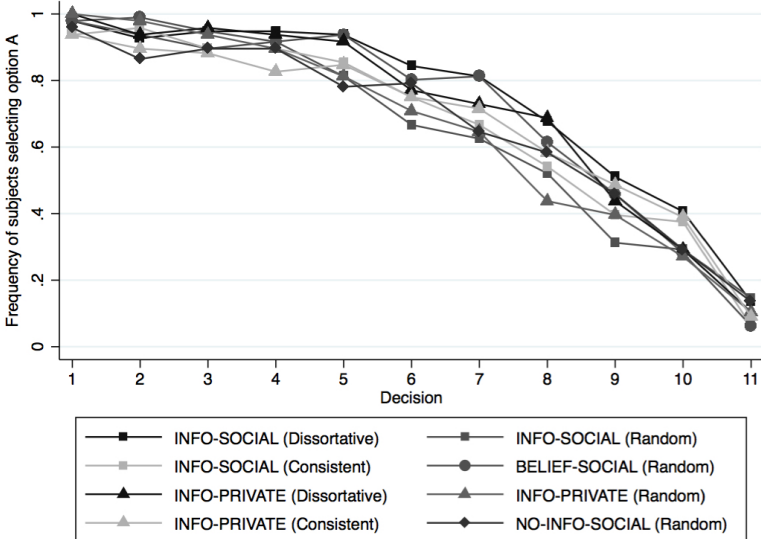
# Appendix D: More results

This appendix contains further details of our experimental data.

## D1. Risk preferences

Our INFO-SOCIAL ( $T_0$ ) and INFO-PRIVATE ( $T_2$ ) treatments match subjects in Stage 4 under three different conditions. In the dissortative matching, the most patient subjects are matched with the most impatient ones. Subjects are randomly matched in pairs in two order conditions. In one of them (random), matching is random and no condition is imposed on consistency, while in one other condition (consistent) we match subjects randomly being sure that consistent Dictators will be matched with consistent Recipients. Figure D1 displays the relative frequencies of subjects selection Option A across all 11 lotteries in Stage 1, by considering the different matching protocols separately.

Figure D1. Aggregate behavior in the lottery tasks

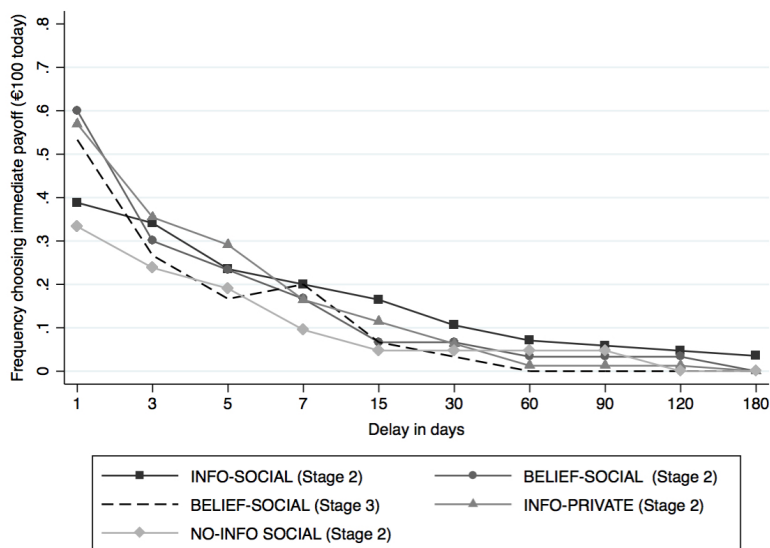


In line with our previous discussion, the Krusall-Wallis test suggests no significant difference across treatments, even when we account for the different matching protocols ( $p = 0.738$ ).

## D2. Time preferences

Figure D2 reports the relative frequency of choices in favor of the immediate payment for each possible delay, ranging from 1 to 180 days. Figure D2 also tracks elicited beliefs in Stage 3 (BELIEF-SOCIAL treatment).

Figure 1: Figure D2. Frequency of immediate payoffs (All subjects)



As Figure D2 shows, the relative frequency of subjects that opt for the immediate payment of € 100 today (rather than getting a higher amount in  $\tau$  days) decreases as future payment is delayed. More precisely, when future payment is postponed 1 day, more than 35% of our sample opt for the immediate payment; when the future payment is delayed 30 days, less than 10% of the sample decided to take the € 100 today. As for the differences across treatments, Figure D2 suggests that subjects are more likely to opt for the immediate payoff in the BELIEF-SOCIAL treatment than in the rest of treatments when the future payment is delayed 1 day (55% vs roughly 40%). Differences are statistically significant using a test of proportions ( $p < 0.04$ ) except when comparing the BELIEF-SOCIAL and the INFO-PRIVATE. The effect is mainly driven by inconsistent subjects, who are all included in Figure D2. If we only consider consistent Dictators (as defined in Section 4.1.3), we observe no differences across treatments. The results are confirmed using a Krusall-Wallis test ( $p > 0.68$ ).<sup>4</sup>

Table D2 focuses on consistent Dictators and provides the results of a profit model on the likelihood of

<sup>4</sup>Still, we find that Dictators believe that Recipients are more than impatient than themselves (see panel (d) in Figure 7).

accepting the immediate payoff. The set of independent variables in columns (1) and (2) include the number of days the decision is delayed (and the number of days to the square). Our controls in columns (3) and (4) include the same individual Dictators' characteristics used in Table 2 (i.e., gender, CRT, WB, RSR, etc...)

Table D2. Estimates of a probit model on the likelihood of accepting the immediate payoff.

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
$d_{T1}$ (=1 if BELIEF-SOCIAL)	-0.079 (0.110)	-0.079 (0.111)	-0.050 (0.115)	-0.047 (0.116)
$d_{T2}$ (=1 if INFO-PRIVATE)	-0.061 (0.080)	-0.063 (0.081)	-0.0005 (0.086)	-0.003 (0.087)
$d_{T3}$ (=1 if NO INFO-SOCIAL)	-0.336** (0.137)	-0.337** (0.139)	-0.304** (0.144)	-0.302** (0.146)
Delay in days	-0.013*** (0.001)	-0.029*** (0.003)	-0.014*** (0.001)	-0.030*** (0.003)
(Delay in days) <sup>2</sup>		0.0001*** (1.75e-05)		0.0001*** (1.82e-05)
Constant	-0.522*** (0.061)	-0.382*** (0.0652)	-0.504* (0.305)	-0.345 (0.309)
Heterogeneity	No	No	Yes	Yes
Observations	2,150	2,150	2,150	2,150

Standard errors in parentheses \*\*\* p<0.01, \*\* p<0.05, \* p<0.1

As discussed above, we find no treatment effects once we perform our analysis on consistent Dictators. We also confirm the effect of the delay, with Dictators being less likely to accept the immediate payoff as the future payment is delayed in time. As for the effects of individual heterogeneity, our results suggest a significant effect of cognitive abilities, trust and the subjects' weekly disposable income on the likelihood of accepting the immediate payoff. More specifically, we confirm Anderson *et al.* [3] and Burks *et al.* [4] in that subjects with higher cognitive abilities are more willing to accept the delayed payment ( $p < 0.001$ ). We also find that men and those who report a higher weekly budget are more likely to delay the payment ( $p < 0.001$ ).

### D3. Preliminary evidence on social time preferences

In order to assess changes in intertemporal choices, we can look at their choices in Stage 4. Table D3.1 presents the estimates of a Tobit model for the switching points of Stage 4, where the set of independent regressors includes the Dictators's decisions in Stage 2, dummy variables for each treatment and the interaction effects. Our findings indicate that choices in Stage 2 are positive and significant what indicates that Dictators

account for their previous choices when choosing in Stage 4. If Dictators receive information about the Recipients' choices, they tend to rely more on their own decisions of Stage 2 when choices have no payoff consequence for others (INFO-SOCIAL *vs* INFO-PRIVATE,  $p=0.0193$ ).<sup>5</sup> We also observe that there is an effect of focusing in that Dictators follow more their choices of Stage 2 in BELIEF-SOCIAL compared with NO-INFO-SOCIAL ( $p=0.0374$ )

Table D3.1. Estimates of a Tobit model on the decision of Stage 4.

Dependent variable: Switching point of stage 4 ( $\rho_{P2}$ )	
Own choice of Stage 2 ( $\rho_{P2}$ )	0.769*** (0.0624)
$d_{T1}$ (=1 if BELIEF-SOCIAL)	-0.491 (2.383)
Interaction term ( $d_{T1} \times \rho_{P2}$ )	0.0727 (0.140)
$d_{T2}$ (=1 if INFO-PRIVATE)	-3.129** (1.341)
Interaction term ( $d_{T2} \times \rho_{P2}$ )	0.178** (0.0814)
$d_{T3}$ (=1 if NO INFO-SOCIAL)	-5.504*** (1.539)
Interaction term ( $d_{T3} \times \rho_{P2}$ )	0.335*** (0.0961)
Constant	4.477*** (1.035)
Observations	3,830

Robust standard errors in parentheses  
 \*\*\*  $p < 0.01$ , \*\*  $p < 0.05$ , \*  $p < 0.1$

Table D3.2 reports the results of a probit model on the likelihood of consistent Dictators changing the decision in Stage 4. The set of independent variables in columns (1) and (2) include the number of days the decision is delayed (and the number of days to the square). Our controls in columns (3) and (4) include individual characteristics of Dictators already used to model inconsistent behavior in Table 2: i.e., the Dictator's gender, the weekly budget, the room size ratio, the score in the CRT, etc...

In line with our discussion in the main text, we observe that Dictators are more likely to change their decision when they impose an externality on Recipients (i.e., the effect of  $d_{T2}$  is always negative and significant). When Dictators base their choices on their beliefs about the Recipients' preferences, there is also evidence for focusing when comparing our estimates for  $d_{T1}$  and  $d_{T3}$  ( $p < 0.001$ ).<sup>6</sup> These finding being

<sup>5</sup>If Dictators receive no information, then they rely more in their own choices of Stage 2 (INFO-SOCIAL *vs* NO-INFO-SOCIAL:  $p=0.0004$ )

<sup>6</sup>When we control for individual characteristics, we also find a significant effect of gender and CRT in that women (subjects

Table D3.2. Estimates of a probit model on the likelihood of changing the decision

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
$d_{T_1}$ (=1 if BELIEF-SOCIAL)	-0.149 <sup>*</sup> (0.084)	-0.150 <sup>*</sup> (0.085)	-0.123 (0.087)	-0.124 (0.087)
$d_{T_2}$ (=1 if INFO-PRIVATE)	-0.345 <sup>***</sup> (0.063)	-0.347 <sup>***</sup> (0.063)	-0.361 <sup>***</sup> (0.066)	-0.364 <sup>***</sup> (0.066)
$d_{T_3}$ (=1 if NO INFO-SOCIAL)	-0.499 <sup>***</sup> (0.100)	-0.501 <sup>***</sup> (0.100)	-0.535 <sup>***</sup> (0.104)	-0.536 <sup>***</sup> (0.104)
Delay in days	0.001 <sup>*</sup> (0.0004)	0.007 <sup>***</sup> (0.002)	0.001 <sup>*</sup> (0.0005)	0.007 <sup>***</sup> (0.002)
(Delay in days) <sup>2</sup>		-3.56e-05 <sup>***</sup> (9.41e-06)		-3.70e-05 <sup>***</sup> (9.52e-06)
Constant	-0.027 (0.049)	-0.111 <sup>**</sup> (0.054)	0.745 <sup>***</sup> (0.237)	0.667 <sup>***</sup> (0.238)
Heterogeneity	No	No	Yes	Yes
Observations	2,150	2,150	2,150	2,150

Standard errors in parentheses \*\*\* p<0.01, \*\* p<0.05, \* p<0.1

noteworthy, relevant to the current study is whether Dictators comply with the observed preferences.

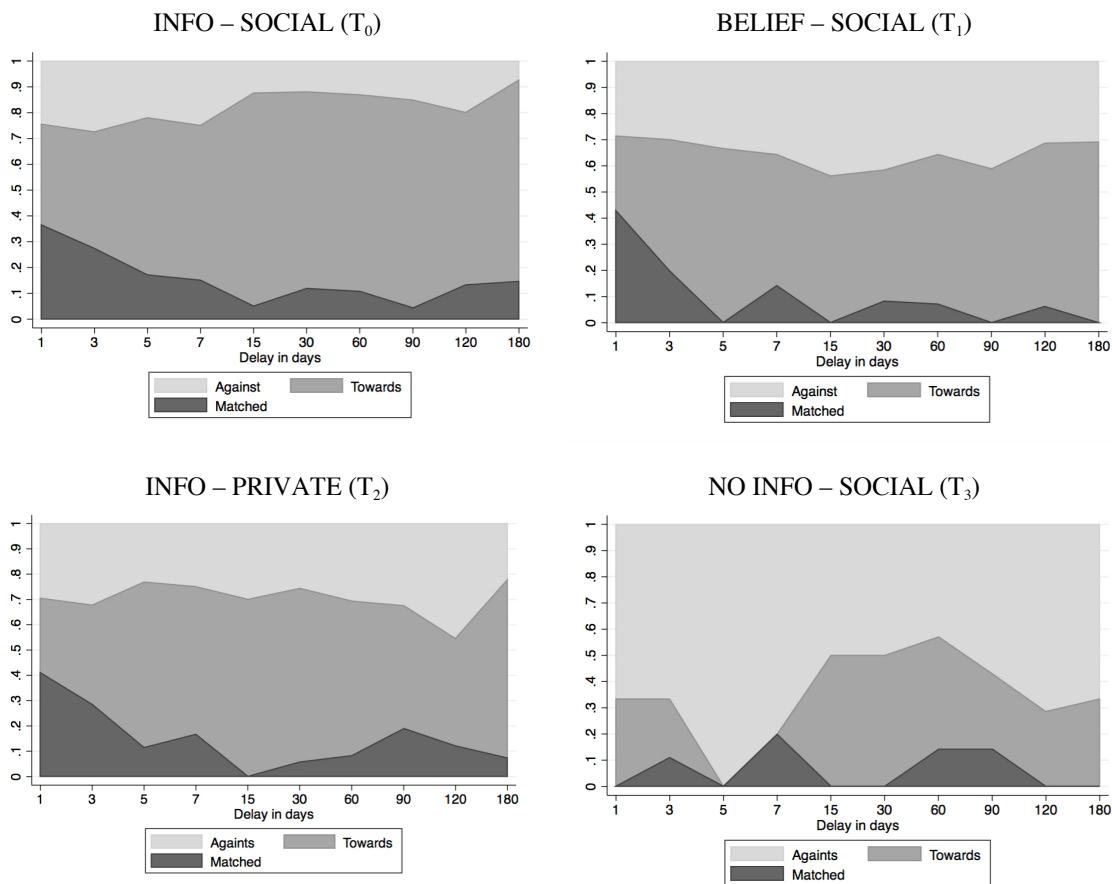
Figure D3 reports, for each possible treatment and time delay, the extent to which the Dictators' choices comply with the Recipients' preferences. We deliberately focus on Dictators who changed their choices and distinguish between choices that matched, moved towards and moved against the Recipients' preferences.

Figure D3 shows heterogeneous behavior across treatment conditions. When information is provided or beliefs are elicited ( $T_0$ ,  $T_1$  and  $T_2$ ), majority of choices (more than 50%) move towards the Recipient's preferences. Otherwise ( $T_3$ ), choices tend to move against the Recipient's preferences. This, in turn, highlights the importance of information and belief elicitation (i.e., focusing). Along similar lines, there is also evidence for social evidence in that choices are less likely to move against the Recipients' preferences when Dictators impose a payoff externality on Recipients (INFO-SOCIAL), compared with the INFO-PRIVATE treatment. These findings are also in line with findings above.

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who scored more in the CRT) are more (less) likely to change their choices than men (subjects who scored less in the CRT), respectively.

Figure D3. Frequency of Recipients' choices matched by Dictators who moved their choices



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