Press Note: Indian Judgment and Decision Making (IJDM 2024) Conference

The **Indian Judgment and Decision Making Conference (IJDM 2024)** took place on **October 5-6, 2024**, at the **Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Mandi**, Himachal Pradesh, in the scenic foothills of the Himalayas. This two-day prestigious conference attracted a wide range of researchers, academics, and practitioners from India and abroad, who shared insights on cutting-edge research in judgment and decision-making (JDM).

Organized by **Prof. Varun Dutt** (IIT Mandi), **Prof. Sumitava Mukherjee** (IIT Delhi), and **Prof. Arjun Ramakrishnan** (IIT Kanpur), the conference offered a platform for interdisciplinary dialogue on the cognitive, neural, and social aspects of judgment and decision-making. The event underscored the importance of fostering collaboration and advancing research in this field across India.

Inaugural Session

The conference was inaugurated by **Prof. Laxmidhar Behera**, Director of IIT Mandi, who emphasized the critical role of judgment and decision-making research in shaping future advancements in areas such as education, mental health, and AI applications.

The inaugural session also featured **Prof. Arnav Bhavsar**, Chair of the Indian Knowledge System and Mental Health Applications Centre at IIT Mandi, who highlighted the relevance of JDM research in addressing contemporary challenges in the Indian context.

Keynote Speakers

IJDM 2024 featured a line-up of esteemed keynote speakers:

- **Prof. Cleotilde Gonzalez** from **Carnegie Mellon University, USA**, delivered an insightful talk on **"Dynamic Decision Making: Past, Present, and Future"**, which delved into the complexities of human decision-making in dynamic environments and the role of learning over time. Her talk provided valuable insights into cognitive models and experimental findings from her lab.
- **Prof. Ido Erev** from **Technion – Israel Institute of Technology** shared his work on **"The Description-Experience Gap, and the Impact of Nudges and Fake News"**. His talk addressed how people make decisions under uncertainty and the behavioral implications of misinformation and incentive structures.
- **Prof. Bapi Raju** from **IIIT Hyderabad** presented a plenary talk on **"The Ticking Clock: Unraveling Time Perception and Decision Making in the Human Mind"**, which focused on how humans perceive time and make decisions under time constraints, offering cognitive and computational perspectives.

Invited Talks

The conference also featured invited talks by notable speakers, such as:

- **Prof. Marieke Van Vugt** from **University of Groningen**, who presented on **"What Mind-Wandering Has to Say About Decision Impairments in Depression"**. Her talk explored the relationship between mind-wandering, mental health, and impaired decision-making.
- **Prof. Varun Dutt** from **IIT Mandi** and **Prof. Arjun Ramakrishnan** from **IIT Kanpur** also delivered invited talks, discussing **cognitive biases in AI-generated phishing emails** and **decision-making in anxious individuals** respectively.

Research Presentations and Poster Sessions

Over 23 research papers were presented across multiple sessions, with topics ranging from **cognitive biases** and **moral decision-making** to **mental health** and **digital behavior**. Some of the notable oral presentations included:

- **"From Descriptions to Experiences: Using IBLT to Model Gambling Decision-Making"** by Gitanshu Choudhary (IIT Mandi)
- **"Loss Aversion: Insights from Diverse Estimation Approaches"** by Akhil Abburu (IIT Delhi)
- **"Barriers to Digital Payment Adoption among Rural Women"** by Surbhi Raina (IIT Jammu)

The poster sessions featured several thought-provoking studies, including:

- **"Using Conflict to Modulate Pavlovian Bias in Decision Making"** by Priyanshu (IIT Kanpur)
- **"The Role of Childhood Traumatic Experiences and Moral Injury on Risk-Taking Behavior among Adolescents"** by Rahan Ajit (Christ University)
- **"A Better Praise or a Bigger Raise? Exploring the Contrast between Delay Discounting of Real Monetary and Social Rewards"** by Harshil Vyas (IIT Gandhinagar)

These sessions facilitated interactive discussions between presenters and participants, encouraging collaboration and networking.

Roundtable Discussions and Open House

On **October 6th**, the conference held a **Roundtable Discussion** led by **Prof. Sumitava Mukherjee** (IIT Delhi) on **"From Basic Knowledge to Applied Insights in Decision Making"**. This session encouraged attendees to explore how research on judgment and decision-making can translate into practical applications in sectors such as **education**, **policy**, and **technology**.

An **Open House Discussion** on **October 5th** also allowed participants to exchange ideas on **teaching and research collaboration** opportunities in India and the relevance of JDM studies in the Indian context.

General Body Meeting

The conference concluded with a **General Body Meeting (GBM)** where participants discussed establishing a formal **Judgment and Decision-Making Society** in India. The meeting emphasized the importance of forming a society to support ongoing research, collaboration, and teaching in this field. Plans for next year's meeting and venue were also discussed.

Future Directions

IJDM 2024 succeeded in fostering meaningful dialogue and collaboration among researchers, while also highlighting the need for further exploration of JDM in the Indian context. With the establishment of a national society on the horizon, the future of judgment and decision-making research in India looks promising.

For more details about the conference, visit the official website at [IJDM 2024](.).

Selected Photos of the Conferences: