



ALMA MATER STUDIORUM
UNIVERSITÀ DI BOLOGNA

BOLOGNA LABORATORY FOR EXPERIMENTS IN SOCIAL SCIENCE
BLESS

ANNUAL REPORT

2023



The road to explore Human Behaviour



ALMA MATER STUDIORUM
UNIVERSITÀ DI BOLOGNA

BOLOGNA LABORATORY FOR EXPERIMENTS IN SOCIAL SCIENCE BLESS

Overview

The Bologna Laboratory for Experimental Economics (BLESS) serves as a cutting-edge research facility at the University of Bologna, enabling experimental research in various fields. It fosters a vibrant research community characterized by active discussions and idea exchanges.

Situated just outside the historical center of the city, BLESS features a state-of-the-art experimental laboratory. The main room accommodates 32 workstations, along with a separate area for the server and experimenters. Additionally, there are 32 tablets available for use outside the lab. Founded by Marco Casari with the support of an ERC Grant from the European Union (no. 241196), BLESS has been operational since 2010.

Research conducted at BLESS covers a wide range of topics, including economic, social, and political institutions, individual cognition and preferences, markets, social norms, human cooperation, social dynamics, voting, environmental responsibility, and social responsibility. Experiments involve data collection and continuous engagement with economic theories, leveraging the versatility of the experimental method to address diverse issues within the social sciences. BLESS welcomes research projects that are methodologically rigorous and ethically sound.

While primarily supporting experimental research conducted by the Department of Economics faculty at the University of Bologna, BLESS also extends its infrastructure to scholars from other institutions with experience in experimental studies. External researchers from fields such as management, political science, and sociology have previously conducted experiments at BLESS, reflecting its interdisciplinary openness and collaborative spirit. Interested scholars can apply for access to the laboratory for their research endeavors.

Marco Casari,
Director of the BLESS

Management

Director:
Marco Casari

Treasurer:
Natalia Montinari

External contracts:
Riccardo Ghidoni

Internship coordinator:
Stephanie Heger

Lab Manager:
Irene Maria Buso

Contacts

Via Ranzani, 14b
40127 Bologna, Italy

dipdse.bless@unibo.it

<https://site.unibo.it/blesslab/>



2023 in numbers

3591

Subject participations

167

Experimental sessions

5

DSE faculty in the lab

4

Junior researchers in lab

3

PhD students in the lab

8

Student interns

11

DSE projects

4

Projects by external
researchers



ALMA MATER STUDIORUM
UNIVERSITÀ DI BOLOGNA

BOLOGNA LABORATORY FOR EXPERIMENTS IN SOCIAL SCIENCE BLESS

Faculty



Maria Bigoni
Professor



Stefania Bortolotti
Associate Professor



Marco Casari
Professor



Jonathan Neil Chapman
Associate Professor



Marco Fabbri
Senior Assistant Professor



Riccardo Ghidoni
Senior Assistant Professor



Alice Guerra
Associate Professor



Natalia Montinari
Associate Professor



Stephanie Heger
Senior Assistant Professor



Alessandro Tavoni
Professor



Veronica Rattini
Junior Assistant Professor



Organizational report

Junior Researchers

Junior Researchers are experts in experimental economics and they participate in the activities of the BLESS. In 2023, those who contributed as experimenters or in other ways were:

- » Irene Maria Buso, Lab Manager
- » Jesus Erubiel Cuevas Ordaz, Post-doctoral scholar
- » Filip Fidanoski, Post-doctoral scholar
- » Sveva Vitellozzi, Post-doctoral scholar

PhD Students

PhD students routinely contribute to the maintenance and good functioning of the BLESS and to a vital and stimulating academic environment. The PhD students who carried out experiments at the BLESS in 2023 were:

- » Giorgio Dini
- » Damiano Paoli
- » Xin Zhang

Research Internships

In 2023, we hosted several students to conduct their internship in BLESS, where they completed 250 hours of research assistance. The following students assisted the research activities at the lab:

- » Elena Barbieri
- » Gloria Carloni
- » Alessio D'Oro
- » Lorenzo Maccarone
- » Kevin Pasquale
- » Vlad Costin Rotariu
- » Roberto Sartore

Lab Meetings

The junior and senior researchers revolving around the lab meet approximately monthly to discuss early ideas and organizational issues related to the management of the laboratory in all its practical aspects (financial, accounting, IT, improvements, maintenance, standards, incidents, privacy, etc.). In 2023 the meetings were the following:

- » Dec. 14th
- » Nov. 9th
- » Oct. 12th
- » Sept. 21st
- » Jul. 12th
- » Jun. 7th
- » May 3rd
- » Mar. 8th
- » Feb. 15th

Every six months there is a one-day meeting with project presentations from internal researchers and the Italian community of experimental economists: it is the Behavioral Experimental Economics Network.



ALMA MATER STUDIORUM
UNIVERSITÀ DI BOLOGNA

BOLOGNA LABORATORY FOR EXPERIMENTS IN SOCIAL SCIENCE BLESS

Activity report

Internal Users

Several members of the DSE used the lab in 2023. Internal Researchers run experiments related to 11 different projects.

- Phd students, 3 projects
- Postdocs, 3 projects
- Faculty, 5 projects

External Users

Researchers from outside the Department of Economics routinely ask to run experiments at BLESS. In 2023 he had 4 projects run in the lab from researchers from the European University Institute, Stockholm University, Tilburg University, and from the Management Department of the University of Bologna.

Subject Pool

BLESS relies on a convenient platform to recruit volunteers for its activities. This software infrastructure facilitates the rapid organization of experimental sessions. At the end of 2023 there were 6122 volunteers enrolled. Here we provide some basic statistics about the subject pool.

- >> 58% women and 42% men.
- >> Most of them are students (85%).
- >> In terms of area of study, 18% are in economics, management, and statistics; 46% in humanities and other social sciences; 33% in natural sciences, and 3% others.
- >> About 27% have participated in at least one session in the year 2023.



Last update:

February 15th, 2024