# The Evolution of Belief Ambiguity During the Process of High School Choice 

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## Introduction I

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- Expectations are fundamental to schooling decisions


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- We study children's belief about the likelihood of obtaining a high school diploma in the regular time
- We focus on Ambiguity and its evolution during the months before pre-enrolment into high school


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We document the evolution of Awareness


## The Study

## Study Overview I

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- Population: 8th graders enrolled in any public junior high school of the Vicenza Municipality in Fall of 2011 and parents
- Timeline of data collection
- Before pre-enrollment, taken as the main decision
- Wave 1: mid October 2011
- Wave 2: mid December 2011
- Wave 3: mid February 2012
- Pre-enrollment deadline: February 20th 2012
- After pre-enrollment
- Wave 4: early April 2012


## Study Overview II

- Schools' Sample: 10 out of 11 agreed to participate $(\approx 900)$
- Families' Sample: 649 students and 619 parents returned a fully or partially completed questionnaire in wave 1 ( $\approx 70 \%$ )
- Survey Mode: Paper and pencil; 60-75 min to complete; self-administered at home, but with introduction of the study and warm-up expectation question in school for the children

| Track | Sub-Track (or Curriculum) |
| :--- | :--- |
| General | Art |
| General | Humanities |
| General | Languages |
| General | Mathematics \& Science |
| General | Music \& Choral |
| General | Learning and Social Sciences |
| Technical | Economic Sector |
| Technical | Technology Sector |
| Vocational | Services |
| Vocational | Industry \& Crafts |
| Vocational | Professional Training |

## Our Measures

## Eliciting Awareness about Choice Alternatives

- Question: What high school curricula do you know or have you heard the name of? Please mark one.

I know it
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- Proposed interpretation:
- 'I have never heard of' = Unawareness about existence of K
- 'I have heard the name only' = Awareness about existence of K , but limited knowledge about characteristics of K
- 'I know' = Awareness about existence of K and refined knowledge about characteristics of K


## Children's Awareness in Wave 1

| \% | 'Know' | 'Heard of' | 'Never heard of' |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Aggregate | 42.45 | 41.11 | 16.44 |

## Predictors of Children's Awareness in Wave 1

Mean Linear Regression of N of Alternatives Child

| Predictors | 'Know' + 'Heard of' |  | 'Know' |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| female | $\underset{\substack{0.41436)}}{0.4144^{* *}}$ | $\underset{(0.1850)}{0.3800^{* *}}$ | $\underset{(0.2685)}{0.9285^{* * *}}$ | $\begin{gathered} 0.8339^{* * *} \\ (0.2687) \end{gathered}$ |
| foreign born | $\underset{(0.3252)}{-1.3140^{* * *}}$ | $\underset{(0.3259)}{-1.2743^{* * *}}$ | $-\underset{(0.4754)}{1.1397^{* *}}$ | $\underset{(0.4735)}{-1.0306^{* *}}$ |
| lives with both parents | $\underset{(0.3129)}{-0.3106}$ | $\underset{(0.3126)}{-0.3029}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 0.1951 \\ & (0.4575) \end{aligned}$ | $\underset{(0.4541)}{0.2164}$ |
| mom college + degree | $\underset{(0.2955)}{-0.8899^{* * *}}$ | $\underset{(0.2951)}{-0.8900 * * *}$ | $\underset{(0.4320)}{-0.2833}$ | $\underset{(0.4287)}{-0.2837}$ |
| mom has HS degree | $-\underset{(0.2496)}{-0.6302^{* *}}$ | $-\underset{(0.2493)}{-0.6364^{* *}}$ | $\begin{gathered} -0.2598 \\ (0.3649) \end{gathered}$ | $\underset{(0.3622)}{-0.2769}$ |
| has stay-home mom | $\underset{(0.2212)}{-0.3701^{*}}$ | $\begin{gathered} -0.3481 \\ (0.2215) \end{gathered}$ | $\underset{(0.3235)}{-0.2966}$ | $\begin{gathered} -0.2360 \\ (0.3218) \end{gathered}$ |
| has blue-collar dad | $\underset{(0.2190)}{0.0473}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 0.0751 \\ & (0.2196) \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 0.2426 \\ & (0.3202) \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 0.3189 \\ & (0.3190) \end{aligned}$ |
| n of older siblings | $\underset{(0.1251)}{0.1363}$ | $\underset{(0.1250)}{0.1403}$ | $\underset{(0.1829)}{0.1913}$ | $\underset{(0.1816)}{0.2024}$ |
| 7th-grade GPA | $\underset{(0.1087)}{0.2214^{* *}}$ | $\underbrace{0.1920^{*}}_{(0.1105)}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 0.0139 \\ (0.1589) \end{array}$ | $\begin{gathered} -0.0666 \\ (0.1605) \end{gathered}$ |
| N alt. discussed/thought | - | $\underset{(0.0633)}{0.0905}$ | - | $\underset{(0.0920)}{0.2485^{* * *}}$ |
| constant | $\underset{\substack{8.1575 * * * \\(0.8692)}}{ }$ | $\begin{gathered} 8.2341^{* * *} \\ (0.8697) \\ \hline \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 4.5155^{* * *} \\ \hline(1.2708) \\ \hline \end{gathered}$ | $\underset{(1.2634)}{4.7257^{* * *}}$ |

## Eliciting Point Beliefs and Ambiguity

- Question: For each type of school below, what do you think would be the chances between 0 and 100 that you would obtain passing grades or higher in all subjects and would graduate in time, if you were to enroll in it?


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| Curriculum | Chances <br> out of $\mathbf{1 0 0}$ | How sure are you <br> about your answer? |
| :--- | :---: | :---: |
|  |  | OI am sure about my answer <br> (Curriculum name) |
|  | -- | I am not sure about my answer <br> MIN chances: ...... <br> MAX chances: ...... <br> Mave no idea about the chances |

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| :--- | :---: | :---: |
|  |  | ○I am sure about my answer |
| (Curriculum name) | -- | I am not sure about my answer <br> MIN chances: ...... <br> MAX chances: ...... |
|  |  | Mave no idea about the chances |

- Proposed interpretation:
- 'I have no idea about the chances' = maximal ambiguity
- 'I am unsure about my answer' = positive ambiguity
- 'I am sure about my answer' = absence of ambiguity


## Children's Point Belief in Wave 1

| Point Probabilities of Passing all Exams |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | $\mathbf{. 1 0 Q}$ | $\mathbf{. 2 5 Q}$ | . $\mathbf{5 0 Q}$ | $\mathbf{. 7 5 Q}$ | $\mathbf{. 9 0 Q}$ | Mean | Std.Dev. |  |
| Gen. Human | 0 | 10 | 40 | 70 | 85 | 41.78 | 31.77 |  |
| Gen. Lang | 1 | 20 | 50 | 80 | 90 | 48.73 | 32.26 |  |
| Gen. Math\&Sc | 5 | 20 | 55 | 80 | 94 | 52.81 | 32.72 |  |
| Gen. ArtMusic | 0 | 20 | 50 | 80 | 90 | 48.17 | 32.74 |  |
| Gen. SocSc | 0 | 5 | 20 | 50 | 75 | 49.58 | 31.06 |  |
| Tech. Eco | 10 | 25 | 55 | 80 | 95 | 52.66 | 31.20 |  |
| Tech. Tech | 10 | 30 | 60 | 80 | 95 | 54.49 | 31.58 |  |
| Voc. Serv | 5 | 30 | 60 | 85 | 100 | 55.25 | 33.07 |  |
| Voc. Ind\&Craf | 0 | 20 | 50 | 80 | 100 | 51.23 | 34.26 |  |
| Voc. Profess | 0 | 20 | 60 | 90 | 100 | 57.06 | 35.75 |  |

N in 471-543; missing in 16.33-27.43\%

Mean Linear Regression of Child's Point Belief of Passing Curriculum:

| Predictors | Gen <br> Hum | Gen <br> Math | $\begin{gathered} \text { Gen } \\ \text { Lang } \end{gathered}$ | Gen <br> Art/Music | Gen <br> Soc Sci | Tech <br> Econ Sect | Tech <br> Tech Sect | Voc Serv | Voc <br> Ind | Voc Prof Train |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| female | $\underset{(2.7720)}{-0.3904}$ | $\begin{gathered} -9.9732^{* * *} \\ (2.4960) \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 2.1219 \\ & (2.6728) \\ & \hline \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 2.6996 \\ & (3.0062) \end{aligned}$ | $\underset{(2.6503)}{-1.4633}$ | $\underset{(2.7195)}{-3.8708}$ | $\underset{(2.7718)}{-12.609)^{* * *}}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 0.6968 \\ & (3.0550) \end{aligned}$ | $\underset{(3.0684)}{-0.3646}$ | $\underset{(3.2783)}{-0.1461}$ |
| foreign born | $\begin{aligned} & 5.5062 \\ & (4.8489) \end{aligned}$ | $\underset{(4.4376)}{-4.1510}$ | $\begin{gathered} 10.8993 * * \\ (4.5667) \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 6.0772 \\ & (5.1581) \end{aligned}$ | $\underset{(4.6443)}{-0.2409}$ | $\underset{(4.9311)}{-5.1832}$ | $-2.0442$ | $\underset{(5.4390)}{-2.7028}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 0.9987 \\ & (5.4535) \end{aligned}$ | $\underset{(5.7644)}{-5.5562}$ |
| lives with both parents | $\begin{aligned} & 0.3020 \\ & (4.6332) \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 0.9220 \\ & (4.2318) \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 2.4491 \\ & (4.3869) \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 3.2232 \\ & (4.8635) \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{gathered} -3.1317 \\ (4.4464) \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 3.4697 \\ & (4.6611) \end{aligned}$ | $\underset{(4.7026)}{5.4771}$ | $\underset{(5.1645)}{-0.4306}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 7.0435 \\ & (5.2192) \end{aligned}$ | $\underset{(5.5113)}{2.8902}$ |
| mom has college+ degree | $\begin{array}{r} 2.5239 \\ (4.4053) \end{array}$ | $\underset{(4.0281)}{1.7202}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 5.9158 \\ & (4.1667) \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 5.0108 \\ & (4.5835) \end{aligned}$ | $\underset{(4.1841)}{4.4773}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 5.0789 \\ & (4.4138) \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 2.9847 \\ & (4.5043) \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 5.2585 \\ (4.9789) \\ \hline \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 2.6368 \\ (4.9811) \end{array}$ | $\begin{gathered} -3.3793 \\ (5.2213) \end{gathered}$ |
| mom has HS degree | $\underset{(3.7006)}{-0.0399}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 3.6821 \\ & (3.3834) \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 3.6437 \\ (3.4934) \\ \hline \end{array}$ | $\underset{(3.9223)}{5.5602}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 3.7593 \\ & (3.5274) \end{aligned}$ | $\underset{(3.7227)}{4.8878}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 4.0710 \\ & (3.7532) \end{aligned}$ | ${ }_{\left(4.6281^{*}\right.}$ | $\underset{(4.1982)}{6.4758}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 3.6273 \\ & (4.3967) \end{aligned}$ |
| has stay-home mom | $\underset{(3.2693)}{-2.0579}$ | $\underset{(2.9982)}{-4.3130}$ | $\begin{gathered} 8.2376^{* *} \\ (3.0819) \\ \hline \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 4.5865 \\ & (3.4898) \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 0.3915 \\ & (3.1306) \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 2.0443 \\ & (3.2838) \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 1.0697 \\ & (3.3220) \end{aligned}$ | $\underset{(3.6509)}{0.1923}$ | ${ }_{(3.6848)}^{1.2572}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 2.5813 \\ & (3.9093) \end{aligned}$ |
| has blue-collar dad | $\underset{(3.2341)}{-4.8475}$ | $\underset{(3.0023)}{-2.0761}$ | $-5.2819^{*}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 0.5268 \\ & (3.3815) \end{aligned}$ | $\underset{(3.1054)}{-4.7257}$ | $\begin{gathered} -3.2384 \\ (3.2552) \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 0.7741 \\ (3.3108) \\ \hline \end{array}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 1.9136 \\ & (3.6303) \end{aligned}$ | $\underset{(3.6653)}{-0.2506}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 4.2690 \\ & (3.8758) \end{aligned}$ |
| n of older siblings | $\underset{(1.8564)}{-0.3560}$ | $\underset{(1.6922)}{-0.3763}$ | $-1.4926$ | $\underset{(1.9566)}{-0.8994}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 0.3057 \\ & (1.7771) \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 0.9013 \\ & (1.8520) \end{aligned}$ | $\underbrace{3.633)^{*}}_{(1.8733)}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 1.2780 \\ & (2.0637) \end{aligned}$ | $\underset{(2.0823)}{1.6541}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 2.3228 \\ & (2.2013) \end{aligned}$ |
| 7th-grade GPA/grade | $\begin{gathered} 13.7428^{* * *} \\ (1.6712) \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 12.4881^{* * *} \\ (1.5810) \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 12.8561 * * * \\ (15432) \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 8.8692^{* * *} \\ (1.4753) \\ \hline \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 13.2541^{* * *} \\ (1.5504) \\ \hline \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 11.0582^{* * *} \\ (1.6120) \end{gathered}$ | $\underset{\substack{(1.6284)}}{10.9407 * *}$ | $\begin{gathered} 7.8185^{* * *} \\ (18317) \end{gathered}$ | $\underset{(1.8264)}{11.3989^{* * *}}$ | $\underset{(1.9683)}{10.3459 * *}$ |
| curr. thought on own or discussed before wave 1 | $14.1747^{* * *}$ | $\underset{(2.9284)}{21.8164^{* *+}}$ | $\underset{(3.0714)}{18.6188^{* * *}}$ | $14.1613^{*}$ <br> (3.8090) | $15.2164^{* * * *}$ | $\begin{gathered} 10.3676 * * * \\ (4.0068) \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 10.3791^{* * *} \\ (3.4990) \end{gathered}$ | ${\underset{(4.9127)}{14.4721 * *})}^{2}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 6.8933 \\ & (8.3690) \end{aligned}$ | $\underset{(7.7627)}{10.3133}$ |
| knows curriculum | $\underset{(7.9463)}{1.2068}$ | $\underset{(8.5375)}{-0.2764}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 8.5411 \\ & (8.0118) \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{gathered} 16.6096^{* * *} \\ (4.2777) \end{gathered}$ | $\underset{(4.0534)}{10.1415}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 8.3477 \\ & (4.2908) \end{aligned}$ | $\underset{(4.4875)}{14.7241}$ | $9.0740^{* *}$ | $\begin{gathered} 8.6139^{*} \\ (4.5848) \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 11.9797^{* * *} \\ (4.5194) \end{gathered}$ |
| heard of curriculum | $\underset{(8.0366)}{2.4045}$ | $\underset{(8.8967)}{-5.0082}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 3.1398 \\ & (8.1342) \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 1.3654 \\ & (3.8084) \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 2.8047 \\ & (3.8904) \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 0.1502 \\ & (4.1670) \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 6.8932 \\ & (4.4494) \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{gathered} 11.0887^{* * *} \\ (3.8583) \end{gathered}$ |  | $\begin{gathered} 9.0545^{* *} \\ (3.9126) \end{gathered}$ |
| constant | $\underset{(14.3755)}{-64.5426^{* * *}}$ | $\underset{(14.4937)}{-43.1459^{* * *}}$ | $\underset{(14.0502)}{-66.3020^{* * *}}$ | $\underset{(14.1514)}{-49.8205 * *}$ | $\underset{(12.4914)}{-59.3635^{* * *}}$ | $\underset{(13.4042)}{-38.1659^{* * *}}$ | $\underset{(14.8461)}{20.8819}$ | $\underset{(13.6348)}{-40.1682^{* * *}}$ | $\underset{(14.8796)}{-46.6537 * *}$ | $\underset{(15.6970)}{-35.1262^{* *}}$ |

## Children's Ambiguity in Wave 1

| \% | 'Sure' | 'Unsure' | 'No Idea of' |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Aggregate | 75.5 | 14.0 | 10.5 |

## Predictors of Ambiguity in Wave 1: Poisson Regression

| Predictors | 'No Idea'+'Unsure' |  | 'No Idea' |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| female | $\underset{(0.0696)}{-0.0178}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 0.0040 \\ & (0.0701) \end{aligned}$ | $\underset{(0.0941)}{0.2684^{* * *}}$ | $\underset{(0.0946)}{0.2938^{* * *}}$ |
| foreign born | ${ }_{(0.1138)}^{0.2109^{*}}$ | $\underbrace{0.1396^{*}}_{(0.1164)}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 0.0699 \\ & (0.1525) \end{aligned}$ | $\underset{(0.1557)}{-0.0191}$ |
| lives with both parents | $\underset{(0.1063)}{0.2215^{* *}}$ | $\underset{(0.1063)}{0.2019}$ | $\underset{(0.1356)}{0.3207^{* *}}$ | ${\underset{(0.1354)}{0.2996 * *}}^{(2)}$ |
| mom college + degree | $\begin{aligned} & 0.0560 \\ & (0.1138) \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 0.0049 \\ & (0.1152) \end{aligned}$ | ${ }_{(0.1421)}^{0.0235}$ | $\underset{(0.1441)}{-0.0386}$ |
| mom has HS degree | $\underset{(0.0984)}{0.1336}$ | $\underset{(0.0994)}{0.0938}$ | $-\underset{(0.1230)}{0.1113}$ | $-(0.1247)$ |
| has stay-home mom | $\underset{(0.0876)}{-0.2081^{* *}}$ | $\underset{(0.0878)}{-0.2311^{* * *}}$ | $\begin{gathered} -0.0522 \\ (0.1128) \end{gathered}$ | ${ }_{(0.1131)}^{-0.0795}$ |
| has blue-collar dad | $\underset{(0.0839)}{-0.0801}$ | $\begin{gathered} -0.0769 \\ (0.0839) \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} -0.0969 \\ (0.1102) \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} -0.0909 \\ (0.1102) \end{gathered}$ |
| n of older siblings | $\underset{(0.0468)}{0.0175}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 0.026 \\ & (0.0466) \end{aligned}$ | $\underset{(0.0619)}{-0.024}$ | $\underset{(0.0614)}{0.0073}$ |
| 7th-grade GPA | $\underbrace{0.0692}_{(0.0412)}$ | $\underbrace{0.0792^{*}}_{(0.0412)}$ | $\begin{array}{r} -0.0248 \\ (0.0552) \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r} -0.0108 \\ (0.0552) \end{array}$ |
| N alt. discussed/thought | $\underset{(0.0245)}{-0.0433^{*}}$ | $\underset{(0.0246)}{-0.0375}$ | $\underset{(0.0372)}{-0.1683^{* * *}}$ | $-0.1608^{* * *}(0.0371)$ |
| N alt. aware of | - | $\underset{(0.0176)}{-0.0557^{* * *}}$ |  | ${\underset{(0.0231)}{-0.0712^{* * *}}}^{2}$ |
| constant | $\begin{aligned} & 0.2160 \\ & (0.3274) \\ & \hline \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{gathered} 0.6770^{*} \\ (0.3547) \\ \hline \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 0.5279 \\ & (0.4316) \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{gathered} 1.1075^{* *} \\ \hline \end{gathered}$ |

## Conceptual Framework

## Subjective Beliefs and Ambiguity

1. Consider the following two bets

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Bet H: Bet on a two horses (A \& B) race (you watch on TV): If horse $A$ wins you get $\$ 100$
Christmas Present: Which one you prefer?

## Subjective Beliefs and Ambiguity

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In experiments people often choose bet C in both cases $1 . \& 2$.

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- Choosing curriculum $k$ makes state $\omega_{1}^{k}$ relevant for payoffs
- Let $C^{k}:=\left\{\omega \in \Omega: \omega_{1}^{k}=1\right\}$

Prior probability: $\quad \pi_{0}^{k}:=m\left(C^{k}\right)$.

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- Note that it is an individual measure


## Learning under Ambiguity? As usual.

- If we want to keep time consistency, we need Bayesian updating model-by-model (Epstein and Schneider, 2003):
for each $\mathcal{I}_{t}$, and $m \in M, \quad \pi_{t}^{k, m}\left(\mathcal{I}_{t}\right)=m\left(C^{k} \mid \mathcal{I}_{t}\right)$.


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$\Rightarrow R^{k}\left(\mathcal{I}_{M}\right)=0 \forall k$
$\Rightarrow$ With enough information ambiguity disappears.

## (Un)Awareness? Do not worry.

- If child does not know a curriculum exists, he simply ignores it (he does not know that he does not know it, ....)
- What if the child discovers a new curriculum, say $j$ ?
- Karni and Vierø (2013-2015) tell us:
- The new $\pi_{t}^{j}$ is of course to be determined
- Old $\pi_{t}^{k}$ for $k \neq j$ are as when the child did not know $j$ existed
- Allows to not worry about limited awareness for beliefs


## Evolution in Awareness

## Children's Awareness in Wave 1

|  | 'Know' | 'Heard of' | 'Never heard of' |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Aggregate | 42.45 | 41.11 | 16.44 |
| Gen, Art | 51.56 | 44.24 | 4.21 |
| Gen, Humanities | 59.81 | 35.67 | 4.52 |
| Gen, Languages | 66.04 | 29.13 | 4.83 |
| Gen, Math \& Science | 73.21 | 22.59 | 4.21 |
| Gen, Music \& Choral | 31 | 44.70 | 24.30 |
| Gen, Soc Sciences | 35.36 | 46.42 | 18.22 |
| Tech, Economic Sector | 35.98 | 47.51 | 16.51 |
| Tech, Technology Sector | 42.68 | 43.61 | 13.71 |
| Voc, Services | 28.66 | 47.20 | 24.14 |
| Voc, Industry \& Crafts | 17.60 | 46.11 | 36.29 |
| Voc, Prof Training | 25.08 | 45.02 | 29.91 |

## Children's Awareness in Wave 3

|  | 'Know' | 'Heard of' | 'Never heard of' |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Aggregate | 61.54 | 32.95 | 5.51 |
| Gen, Art | 70.13 | 28.10 | 1.77 |
| Gen, Humanities | 77.43 | 21.02 | 1.55 |
| Gen, Languages | 78.54 | 20.35 | 1.11 |
| Gen, Math \& Science | 84.73 | 13.50 | 1.77 |
| Gen, Music \& Choral | 47.79 | 45.13 | 7.08 |
| Gen, Soc Sciences | 62.39 | 33.63 | 3.98 |
| Tech, Economic Sector | 55.75 | 39.16 | 5.09 |
| Tech, Technology Sector | 60.84 | 34.51 | 4.65 |
| Voc, Services | 49.34 | 40.71 | 9.96 |
| Voc, Industry \& Crafts | 39.82 | 47.35 | 12.83 |
| Voc, Prof Training | 50.22 | 38.94 | 10.84 |

## Transitions in Awareness I: Wave 1 to Wave 3

## UNCONDITIONAL

|  | Know | Heard | NoHeard | N |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Know |  |  |  |
| Heard | 0.86 | $\mathbf{0 . 1 3}$ | $\mathbf{0 . 0 1}$ | 1333 |
|  | 0.47 | 0.48 | $\mathbf{0 . 0 5}$ | 1194 |
| NoHear | 0.33 | 0.52 | 0.15 | 443 |
|  |  |  |  |  |

Children who responded to both W1 \& W3

## Transitions on Awareness II: Wave 1 to Wave 2

## Ranked Bottom W1

|  | Know | Heard | oHea | $\chi^{2}$ | Know | Know | Heard | NoHeard |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Know | 0.79 | 0.20 | 0.01 | (***) |  | 0.97 | 0.03 | 0.00 | 267 |
| Heard | 0.40 | 0.55 | 0.06 | ${ }^{(* * *)}$ | Heard | 0.72 | 0.22 | 0.06 | 49 |
| NHear | 0.24 | 0.52 | 0.24 |  | NHear | 0.50 | 0.38 | 0.12 | 16 |

Children who responded to both W1 \& W2

## Evolution in Ambiguity

## Children's Ambiguity in Wave 1

|  | 'Sure' | 'Unsure' | 'No Idea' |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Aggregate | 76.44 | $\mathbf{1 3 . 1 0}$ | $\mathbf{1 0 . 4 7}$ |
| Gen., Humanities | 76.2 | 14.97 | 8.82 |
| Gen., Languages | 79.84 | 13.44 | 6.72 |
| Gen., Math\&Science | 76.74 | 17.11 | 6.15 |
| Gen., Art or Music | 77.13 | 15.16 | 7.71 |
| Gen., Social Sciences | 74.32 | 16.49 | 9.19 |
| Tech., Economic Sec. | 75 | 16.85 | 8.15 |
| Tech., Techn. Sec. | 77.38 | 12.53 | 10.08 |
| Voc., Services | 73.7 | 10.41 | 15.89 |
| Voc., Ind.\&Crafts | 77.62 | 6.91 | 15.47 |
| Prof. Develop. Train. | 76.39 | 6.67 | 16.94 |

## Children's Ambiguity in Wave 3

|  | 'Sure' | 'Unsure' | 'No Idea' |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Aggregate | 80.96 | 5.72 | 13.32 |
| Gen., Humanities | 87.22 | 5.4 | 7.39 |
| Gen., Languages | 87.32 | 5.92 | 6.76 |
| Gen., Math\&Science | 85.43 | 6.57 | 8 |
| Gen., Art or Music | 85.31 | 5.65 | 9.04 |
| Gen., Social Sciences | 81.48 | 7.41 | 11.11 |
| Tech., Economic Sec. | 80.17 | 7.08 | 12.75 |
| Tech., Techn. Sec. | 76.82 | 6.42 | 16.76 |
| Voc., Services | 74.93 | 4.84 | 20.23 |
| Voc., Ind.\&Crafts | 75.07 | 3.97 | 20.96 |
| Prof. Develop. Train. | 75.85 | 3.98 | 20.17 |

## Transitions in Ambiguity I: Wave 1 to Wave 3

## UNCONDITIONAL

|  | Sure | Unsure | Noldea | N |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | 0.86 | $\mathbf{0 . 0 2}$ | $\mathbf{0 . 1 2}$ | 1790 |
| Sure | 0.17 | $\mathbf{0 . 1 9}$ | 247 |  |
|  | 0.64 | 0.17 | 0.46 | 287 |
|  | No Idea | 0.51 | 0.03 |  |

Children who responded to both W1 \& W3

## Ambiguity Transitions II: Wave 1 to Wave 2

## Ranked Bottom W1

## Ranked First W1

|  | Sure | Unsure | Noldea | $\chi^{2}$ |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | 0.84 | $\mathbf{0 . 0 2}$ | $\mathbf{0 . 1 4}$ | $\left({ }^{* * *)}\right.$ |
| Sure | 0.8 |  |  |  |
| Unsure | 0.67 | 0.17 | $\mathbf{0 . 1 6}$ |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| Noldea | 0.55 | 0.05 | 0.40 |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |


| Sure | Sure | Unsure | Noldea | N |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | 0.92 | 0.02 | 0.06 | 248 |
| Unsure | 0.68 | 0.22 | 0.10 | 40 |
| Noldea | 1.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 5 |

Children who responded to both W1 \& W2

## Ambiguity Transitions III: Wave 1 to Wave 3

## UNCONDITIONAL

|  | Sure | Unsure | Noldea | $\chi^{2}$ |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | 0.86 | $\mathbf{0 . 0 2}$ | $\mathbf{0 . 1 2}$ | $\left({ }^{* * *}\right)$ |
| Sure | 0.8 |  |  |  |
| Unsure | 0.71 | 0.15 | $\mathbf{0 . 1 4}$ |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| Noldea | 0.58 | 0.04 | 0.39 |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |


|  | Sure | Unsure | Noldea | N |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | 0.93 | $\mathbf{0 . 0 2}$ | $\mathbf{0 . 0 1}$ | 149 |
| Sure | Unsure | 0.73 | 0.22 | $\mathbf{0 . 0 5}$ |
|  | 22 |  |  |  |
| Noldea | 0.43 | 0.14 | 0.43 | $\mathbf{7}$ |
|  |  |  |  |  |

Children who responded to both W1 \& W3

## Evolution in Beliefs and Ranges

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- We can hence study their average evolution across alternatives


## Evolution of the Point Beliefs



## Evolution of the Ambiguity Ranges I: Alternatives



## Evolution of the Ambiguity Ranges II: Ranking



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- In any case, evidence relevant for estimation in choice models
- Care must be taken in use of data for unchosen alternatives
- Incorporate into choice, process for learning or bias generation


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- Future: see how beliefs react to grades (observable shocks)

| Sample Characteristics I | Children W1 Sample $(N=649)$ | Children W1\&W3 Sample $(N=410)$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Child's gender <br>  <br>  <br>  <br>  <br> $\%$ female | $\begin{aligned} & 46.53 \\ & 53.47 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 43.17 \\ & 56.83 \end{aligned}$ |
| Child's place of birth \% Italy | 86.36 | 88.02 |
| Child's age <br> mean std. dev. | $\begin{gathered} 13.0929 \\ 0.4249 \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 13.0732 \\ 0.4072 \end{gathered}$ |
| Child's age vs. school grade \% regular (born in 1998) \% ahead (born after 1998) \% behind (born before 1998) | $\begin{gathered} 83.9 \\ 3.87 \\ 12.23 \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 85.12 \\ 4.15 \\ 10.73 \\ \hline \end{gathered}$ |
| Child's GPA (out of 10) <br> mean std. dev. | $\begin{aligned} & 7.6541 \\ & 0.9663 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 7.7405 \\ & 0.9719 \end{aligned}$ |
| Parent/s' child lives with \% both parents \% one parent \% none | $\begin{gathered} 87.84 \\ 11.66 \\ 0.51 \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 88.2 \\ 11.44 \\ 0.35 \end{gathered}$ |
| Number of older siblings mean std. dev. | $\begin{aligned} & 0.6248 \\ & 0.7636 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 0.5594 \\ 0.6966 \\ \hline \end{array}$ |


| Sample Characteristics II | Children W1 Sample $(\mathrm{N}=649)$ | Child W1\&W3 Sample $(\mathrm{N}=410)$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Mother's country of birth \% Italy | 87.79 | 82.7 |
| Father's place of birth \% Italy | 81.16 | 83.03 |
| Mother's school degree <br> elementary or less junior high school HS diploma (includes 3-yrs vocational) college degree or higher | $\begin{gathered} 2.37 \\ 20.14 \\ 50.08 \\ 27.41 \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 1.85 \\ 18.78 \\ 52.12 \\ 27.25 \\ \hline \end{gathered}$ |
| Father's school degree <br> elementary or less junior high school HS diploma (includes 3-yrs vocational) college degree or higher | $\begin{gathered} 1.94 \\ 21.3 \\ 50.35 \\ 26.41 \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 1.62 \\ 22.16 \\ 50.81 \\ 25.41 \end{gathered}$ |
| Mother's working status $\left.\begin{array}{r}\text { full-time } \\ \text { part-time }\end{array}\right\}$ | 39.43 <br> 37.58 <br> 22.90 | 41.04 36.36 <br> 22.60 |
|  | $\begin{gathered} 92.06 \\ 4.32 \\ 3.63 \end{gathered}$ | 91.84 4.21 3.95 |

Awareness in W1: Poisson Regression of N of Alternatives Child is Aware of

| Predictors | 'Know' + 'Heard of' |  | 'Know' |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| female | $\begin{aligned} & \hline 0.0443 \\ & (0.0327) \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \hline 0.0408 \\ & (0.0330) \end{aligned}$ | $\underset{(0.0456)}{0.1901^{* * *}}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 0.1725^{* * *} \\ & (0.0459) \end{aligned}$ |
| foreign born | $\underset{(0.0616)}{-0.1501^{* *}}$ | $\underset{(0.0618)}{-0.1458^{* *}}$ | $\underset{(0.0879)}{-0.2538^{* * *}}$ | $\underset{(0.0882)}{-0.2310^{* * *}}$ |
| lives with both parents | $\underset{(0.0566)}{-0.0335}$ | $\underset{(0.0566)}{-0.0326}$ | $\underset{(0.0754)}{0.0393}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 0.0449 \\ & (0.0755) \end{aligned}$ |
| mom college + degree | $\underset{(0.0521)}{-0.0941^{*}}$ | $\underset{(0.0521)}{-0.0941^{*}}$ | $\underset{(0.0720)}{-0.0572}$ | $\underset{(0.0721)}{-0.0575}$ |
| mom has HS degree | $\underset{(0.0437)}{-0.0660}$ | $\underset{(0.0437)}{-0.0667}$ | $\underset{(0.0605)}{-0.0518}$ | $\underset{(0.0606)}{-0.0557}$ |
| has stay-home mom | $\underset{(0.0396)}{-0.0397}$ | $\underset{(0.0397)}{-0.0374}$ | $\underset{(0.0551)}{-0.0611}$ | $\underset{(0.0553)}{-0.0484}$ |
| has blue-collar dad | $\underset{(0.0390)}{0.0057}$ | $\underset{(0.0392)}{0.0085}$ | ${ }_{(0.0535)}^{0.0503}$ | $\underset{(0.0537)}{0.0650}$ |
| n of older siblings | $\underset{(0.0222)}{0.0145}$ | $\underset{(0.0222)}{0.0149}$ | $\underset{(0.0305)}{0.0389}$ | $\underset{(0.0304)}{0.0413}$ |
| 7th-grade GPA | ${ }_{(0.0193)}^{0.0236}$ | $\underset{(0.0197)}{0.0205}$ | ${ }_{(0.0267)}^{0.0035}$ | $\underset{(0.0271)}{-0.0124}$ |
| N alt. discussed/thought | - | $\underset{(0.0111)}{0.0094}$ | - | $\underset{(0.0149)}{0.0484^{* * *}}$ |
| constant | $\underset{(0.8692)}{2.1055^{* * *}}$ | $\underset{(0.1552)}{2.1140^{* * *}}$ | $\begin{gathered} 1.4985^{* * *} \\ \hline \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 1.5387_{(1.2137)}^{* * *} \\ \hline \end{gathered}$ |

Awareness in W3: Poisson Regression of N of Alternatives Child is Aware of

| Predictors | 'Know' + 'Heard of' |  | 'Know' |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| female | $\begin{gathered} -0.0057 \\ (0.0468) \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} -0.0067 \\ (0.0467) \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 0.0529 \\ & (0.0577) \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 0.0536 \\ & (0.0577) \end{aligned}$ |
| foreign born | $\begin{gathered} -0.0633 \\ (0.0863) \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} -0.0501 \\ (0.0867) \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} -0.1102 \\ (0.1066) \end{gathered}$ | $\underset{(0.1074)}{-0.0751}$ |
| lives with both parents | $\underset{(0.0815)}{-0.0207}$ | $\underset{(0.0817)}{-0.0111}$ | $\underset{(0.1014)}{-0.0440}$ | $\begin{gathered} -0.0048 \\ (0.1023) \end{gathered}$ |
| mom college + degree | $\underset{(0.0766)}{-0.0350}$ | $\underset{(0.0784)}{-0.0092}$ | $\underset{(0.0950)}{0.1127}$ | $\underset{(0.0957)}{0.2037 * *}$ |
| mom has HS degree | $\underset{(0.0650)}{-0.0334}$ | $\underset{(0.0656)}{-0.0198}$ | $\underset{(0.0807)}{0.0541}$ | $\underset{(0.0807)}{0.0935}$ |
| has stay-home mom | $\underset{(0.0543)}{-0.0033}$ | $\underset{(0.0544)}{-0.0010}$ | $\underset{(0.0661)}{0.1345^{* *}}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 0.1091 \\ & (0.0664) \end{aligned}$ |
| has blue-collar dad | $\underset{(0.058)}{-0.0376}$ | $\underset{(0.0586)}{-0.0348}$ | $\begin{array}{r} -0.0227 \\ (0.0717) \end{array}$ | $\underset{(0.0719)}{-0.0728}$ |
| n of older siblings | $\left(\begin{array}{l} 0.0099 \\ (0.0317) \end{array}\right.$ | $\begin{aligned} & 0.0103 \\ & (0.0317) \end{aligned}$ | $\underset{(0.0399)}{-0.0809^{* *}}$ | $\begin{gathered} -0.0507 \\ (0.0408) \end{gathered}$ |
| 7th-grade GPA | $\underset{(0.0267)}{-0.0052}$ | $\underset{(0.0268)}{-0.0074}$ | $\underset{(0.0330)}{-0.0967^{* * *}}$ | $\underset{(0.0332)}{-0.0769^{* *}}$ |
| N alt. discussed/thought in W1 | $\underset{(0.0151)}{0.0013}$ | $\begin{gathered} -0.0021 \\ (0.0153) \end{gathered}$ | $\underset{(0.0181)}{0.0404^{* *}}$ | $\underset{(0.0187)}{0.0083}$ |
| N alt. aware/knows in W1 | - | $\begin{aligned} & 0.0196 \\ & (0.0130) \end{aligned}$ | - | $\underset{(0.0103)}{0.0877^{* * *}}$ |
| constant | $\underset{(0.2113)}{2.4403^{* * *}}$ | $\underset{(0.2429)}{2.2611^{* * *}}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 2.5634 \\ & (0.2598) \\ & \hline \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 1.9441 \\ & (0.2748) \end{aligned}$ |

## Predictors of Ambiguity in Wave 3: Poisson Regression

| Predictors | 'No Idea'+'Unsure' |  | 'No Idea' |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| female | $\underset{(0.1066)}{0.3881^{* * *}}$ | $\underset{(0.1073)}{0.3897^{* * *}}$ | $\underset{(0.1192)}{0.4246^{* * *}}$ | $\underset{(0.1200)}{0.4085^{* * *}}$ |
| foreign born | $\underset{(0.1621)}{0.3712^{* * *}}$ | $\underset{(0.1664)}{0.2420}$ | $0_{(0.1930)}^{0.3447^{*}}$ | $\underset{(0.1965)}{0.2352}$ |
| lives with both parents | $\underset{(0.1517)}{0.3509^{* *}}$ | $\underbrace{0.2717^{*}}_{(0.1538)}$ | $\underset{(0.1728)}{0.4586^{* * *}}$ | $\underset{(0.1745)}{0.3995^{* *}}$ |
| mom college + degree | $-\underset{(0.1582)}{-0.7517^{* *}}$ | $\underset{(0.1624)}{-0.9077^{* * *}}$ | $-{\underset{(0.1726)}{1.0723^{* * *}}}^{(2)}$ | $-{\underset{(0.1789)}{ }}^{-1.2621^{* * *}}$ |
| mom has HS degree | $\underset{(0.1285)}{-0.4574^{* * *}}$ | $\underset{(0.1311)}{-0.5435^{* * *}}$ | $\underset{(0.1374)}{-0.7847^{* * *}}$ | $\underset{(0.1420)}{-0.9048^{* * *}}$ |
| has stay-home mom | $-\underset{(0.1215)}{-0.3120^{* * *}}$ | $-0.3239^{* * *}$ | $\begin{gathered} -0.2153 \\ (0.1329) \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} -0.2295^{*} \\ (0.1328) \end{gathered}$ |
| has blue-collar dad | $-\underset{(0.1295)}{0.2636^{* *}}$ | $\underset{(0.1321)}{-0.3150^{* *}}$ | $-\underset{(0.1586)}{-0.7061^{* * *}}$ | $\underset{(0.1613)}{-0.7555^{* * *}}$ |
| n of older siblings | $\underset{(0.0670)}{0.0795^{* *}}$ | $\underset{(0.0666)}{0.0777}$ | $\underset{(0.0802)}{-0.0596}$ | $\underset{(0.0792)}{-0.0538}$ |
| 7th-grade GPA | $\begin{aligned} & 0.0916 \\ & (0.0573) \end{aligned}$ | $\frac{0.0993^{*}}{(0.0564)}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 0.1010 \\ & (0.0658) \end{aligned}$ | $\underbrace{0.1238^{*}}_{(0.0647)}$ |
| N alt. discussed/thought | $-\underset{(0.0363)}{-0.0912^{* *}}$ | $\underset{(0.0363)}{-0.0682^{*}}$ | $\underset{(0.0472)}{-0.2503^{* * *}}$ | $-\underset{(0.0468)}{-0.2218^{* * *}}$ |
| N alt. aware of | - | $\underset{(0.0254)}{-0.1222^{* * *}}$ | - | $\underset{(0.0288)}{-0.1340^{* * *}}$ |
| constant | $\begin{aligned} & 0.4760 \\ & (0.4527) \\ & \hline \end{aligned}$ | $\underset{(0.4991)}{1.6219^{* * *}}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 0.7520 \\ (0.5169) \\ \hline \end{array}$ | $\begin{gathered} 1.9055^{* * *} \\ (0.5556) \\ \hline \end{gathered}$ |

