

Beliefs, intentions, power : essays on dynamic decision problems

Citation for published version (APA):

Méder, Z. Z. (2015). *Beliefs, intentions, power : essays on dynamic decision problems*. [Doctoral Thesis, Maastricht University]. Maastricht University. <https://doi.org/10.26481/dis.20150605zm>

Document status and date:

Published: 01/01/2015

DOI:

[10.26481/dis.20150605zm](https://doi.org/10.26481/dis.20150605zm)

Document Version:

Publisher's PDF, also known as Version of record

Please check the document version of this publication:

- A submitted manuscript is the version of the article upon submission and before peer-review. There can be important differences between the submitted version and the official published version of record. People interested in the research are advised to contact the author for the final version of the publication, or visit the DOI to the publisher's website.
- The final author version and the galley proof are versions of the publication after peer review.
- The final published version features the final layout of the paper including the volume, issue and page numbers.

[Link to publication](#)

General rights

Copyright and moral rights for the publications made accessible in the public portal are retained by the authors and/or other copyright owners and it is a condition of accessing publications that users recognise and abide by the legal requirements associated with these rights.

- Users may download and print one copy of any publication from the public portal for the purpose of private study or research.
- You may not further distribute the material or use it for any profit-making activity or commercial gain
- You may freely distribute the URL identifying the publication in the public portal.

If the publication is distributed under the terms of Article 25fa of the Dutch Copyright Act, indicated by the "Taverne" license above, please follow below link for the End User Agreement:

www.umlib.nl/taverne-license

Take down policy

If you believe that this document breaches copyright please contact us at:

repository@maastrichtuniversity.nl

providing details and we will investigate your claim.

BELIEFS, INTENTIONS, POWER

ESSAYS ON DYNAMIC DECISION PROBLEMS

BY ZSOMBOR Z. MÉDER

PROPOSITIONS ACCOMPANYING THE DISSERTATION

1. A full understanding of dynamic inconsistency requires an explicit distinction between intentions and beliefs.
2. It can be optimal to deceive oneself by willfully choosing to become naive.
3. The voluntary transfer of punishment power is a key mechanism for the constitution of social institutions.
4. Hierarchy is an essential aspect of human social organization. In a new group, hierarchy emerges spontaneously and rapidly.
5. Power – or influence – is the degree and cost at which a player can change other player's payoffs.
6. The emergence of power structure is a special instance of the distribution of labor. The task of coordinating, incentivizing, and monitoring of human beings, i.e., the use of power, is the most intricate human endeavour.
7. Humans have a unique ability to deal with new and extremely complex strategic situations. This ability coevolved with language and social structure.
8. It is often more prudent to let a group organize itself without external interference. Chosen leaders command more legitimacy and are often more able than assigned ones.
9. We have an array of metastrategies that enable us to handle all forms of strategic interactions. Few of these metastrategies have been explored yet.
10. The grand project and narrative of the 21st century is ensuring humanity's continued existence. Whether our existence is preferable – even from our own perspective! – is hardly a matter for debate. In order to open up fundamental thinking about our future, a frank discussion of the merits of our own species should take place.