

Interpersonal interactions in an unequal world

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Propositions belonging to the dissertation

Interpersonal interactions in an unequal world: Effects of inequality and unfairness on social and consumer decision-making.

Leticia R. Micheli

1. Not all inequalities in opportunities are perceived to be the same. Differences in fairness perceptions arise depending on the criteria used to allocate opportunities. (Chapter 2)
2. Outcome redistribution is likely not seen as a legitimate compensation for inequality in opportunities. (Chapter 3)
3. Perceptions of high economic mobility can have detrimental consequences for the financial well-being of low-income consumers, as they become more prone to engage in consumption that surpasses their financial means to display status. (Chapter 4)
4. Reciprocating unfairness and reciprocating generosity are not two sides of the same coin. Different psychological motivations are at play in each of these behaviors. (Chapter 5)
5. How people behave in situations of injustice can play an important role in decreasing or in exacerbating existing inequalities. (Impact chapter)
6. “All human societies need to make sense of their inequalities, and the justifications given in the past turn out, if studied carefully, to be no more incoherent than those of the present.” (Piketty, 2019)
7. The fight against inequality should not know the boundaries of race, gender, social groups or species.
8. Interdisciplinary research is a constant exercise of broadening your horizon to different perspectives on science. I once heard something I take to heart: to be truly interdisciplinary you should first learn to praise a discipline for what it is good at. Only then you are equipped to criticize it.
9. “The seat of the soul is meat.” (Paul Glimcher, Neuroeconomics Summer School, Shanghai)
10. “Science is more than a body of knowledge. It is a way of thinking.” (Carl Sagan)
11. “When you get these jobs that you have been so brilliantly trained for, just remember that your real job is that if you are free, you need to free somebody else. If you have some power, then your job is to empower somebody else.” (Toni Morrison)