

Dr. Szymon

Wichary

Assistant professor at the Interdisciplinary Centre for Applied Cognitive Research of the SWPS University of Social Sciences and Humanities in Warsaw. Graduated in biology and psychology from the Jagiellonian University in Krakow. In 2004 awarded a doctoral degree in psychology by the same university. His main interests include the role of personality, emotions and stress in decision making and the biological sources of individual differences (temperament, personality, readiness to take risks). Conducts research into decision making psychology, cognitive psychology, emotions psychology and physiology.

DURATION OF THE SCIEX PROJECT:
1.10.2010-30.09.2011

PROJECT:
**BUMSS – Bottom-up
model of strategy
selection**

University of Social
Sciences and
Humanities

PL

CH

Centre for Economic
Psychology
-University of Basel



What was the objective of your project implemented as part of the SCIEX programme?

I intended to do empirical research, create a computer model of strategy selection as well as analyse data gathered for the purposes of the model.

What were the outcomes of the project?

The main outcome was a description of relations between emotional stress and decision making. The research provided a precise answer to how people process information before making a decision when they are under the influence of stress, and which decision strategy they use on such occasions. A computer model of decision making was created. I presented the project outcomes at a seminar organised by the Interdisciplinary Centre for Applied Cognitive Research and published two articles in respectable scientific journals.

As part of the project, the Centre for Economic Psychology at the University of Basel offered training to assistant lecturers conducting the research, its results were also presented at an internal seminar organised by the host institution. And another result – although the fellowship is over, the Centre for Economic Psychology and the Interdisciplinary Centre for Applied Cognitive Research continue to cooperate.

What impact did the fellowship have on your professional and private life?

I have accepted an invitation from a colleague, with whom I had worked on other projects and the SCIEX fellowship has allowed me to expand my research and establish academic contacts with the best research teams in my field. As a result, we have published an article and implemented a project on the impact of hormones on decisions involving risk taking, which is the topic I am working on. During the fellowship, I had time to explore knowledge of modelling and I continue my explorations by participating in annual modelling workshops organised at the University of Amsterdam.

If not for the fellowship...

...I would not have had the opportunity to conduct that kind of research or publish its results as they would have got stuck somewhere. I regret to say that before the Swiss chapter of my life I found it difficult to do research in Poland (different financing rules, long waiting period for the consideration of applications, etc.). Therefore, I am convinced that in order to conduct successful scientific research you have to go abroad to see for yourself what research work in other countries looks like.