**2022/2023 Summer Research Project Description**

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| **Project title:** | **High-stakes poker hands data collection** |
| **Project duration, hours of engagement & delivery mode** | *Duration of the project:* 10 weeks  *Hours of engagement:* 30 hours per week  *Delivery mode:* Remote or on-site working arrangement allowed |
| **Description:** | The game of poker is an ideal setting to study human decision-making, as it involves many similarities to economic choices, such as risks, expected payoffs, and game theory. Just like in the stock market, decisions are made in high-stakes, incentivised environments with real consequences. In addition, there are several elements of behavioural economics related to poker, such as the exploitation or overcoming of psychological biases in making optimal decisions. However, because no public dataset of live poker hands exists, there have been no economics studies on poker players conducted to date.  The main objective of this project is to put together such a dataset, using video footage from TV series of high-stakes poker. The dataset will include variables categorised from poker, such as aggressiveness and risk-taking. The student will be involved in determining which poker sources to use for the data collection, which variables to include (and how to define them), and how to arrange and store each poker hand into the dataset so that it is suitable for statistical analysis. Following this planning, the student’s main task will be to record data from viewing the poker videos. |
| **Expected outcomes and deliverables:** | The main skills expected from this project are the planning and execution of efficient data collection in preparation for empirical economics research. The student will learn how to best arrange, clean, summarise and store empirical data. Prior to the data collection, a brief literature search and review of existing poker data will be conduction. Following the original data collection, the student and supervisor may develop a pre-analysis plan, together with hypotheses, for analysing the data, and, conditional on time, may begin the main analysis. |
| **Suitable for:** | This project is open to students from any background (economics is not a requirement). However, given the nature of the main tasks, it would be **especially suitable for students with knowledge of poker and who enjoy watching televised poker.** Past experience with primary data collection and/or dataset management is desirable. Knowledge of statistics is desirable, but not essential. |
| **Primary Supervisor:** | Dr David Smerdon |
| **Further info:** | If you want further information about this project prior to submitting an application, please contact Dr Smerdon on [d.smerdon@uq.edu.au](mailto:d.smerdon@uq.edu.au) |