

This thesis consists of four chapters. The first two are in the field of behavioral economics and are based on both laboratory and field experiments, and the last two are in the field of environmental economics. In Chapter 1, we examine the effect of varying the timing of payments and commitments on charitable giving. We find that asking donors to make a binding commitment to donate later increases donations compared with asking them to donate immediately. In Chapter 2, we measure trust in institutions by using a novel institutional trust experiment and survey questions. We find that more specific institutional trust measures should be used when measuring trust in institutions. In Chapter 3, we investigate the persistence of energy poverty and find that it is characterized by strong state dependence. In Chapter 4, we measure the cost of power outages among manufacturing enterprises and find that the willingness to pay, and thus the cost of power outages, is substantial.

# Essays on Environmental and Behavioral Economics

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