

Preface and Acknowledgment

The present work is the result of my research at the Max Planck Institute for Human Development. The work originated from the research program developed at the Center for Adaptive Behavior and Cognition. This research program explores cognitive strategies with which people make judgments and decisions under uncertainty. The greatest success of this program has been in the development and testing of strategies for individual decision problems, whereas the domain of social rationality has not attracted major attention. Therefore, it was felt necessary to intensify the study of cognitive strategies people apply in social interactions. Although the present work has a psychological focus on the individual's behavior and strategies, the evaluation of the performance of candidate strategies was also important. For this reason, parts of the present work are strongly influenced by game theory. For those who are not familiar with game theory, basic concepts have been shortly introduced.

Many people have influenced the present work, and I would like to mention a few of them and clarify which parts of the present work have not been done by me. First, I have to thank Gerd Gigerenzer who gave me the great opportunity to work at the Center of Adaptive Behavior and Cognition with its inspiring research atmosphere.

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