

Media Release

Basel, Switzerland, 29 Nov. 2019

17th Steven Karger Prize  
of the Faculty of  
Psychology at the  
University Basel

The Faculty of Psychology at the University of Basel awarded the Steven Karger Prize for the 17th time this year. The award went to Dr. phil. **Mikhail Spektor** for his publication about the influence of context on decisions that are based on experiences.

The Steven Karger Prize has been awarded at the Dies Academicus of the University of Basel that took place on November 29. Dr. phil. **Mikhail Spektor** received the award for his publication in the journal *Psychological Review*: **"How Similarity between Choice Options Affects Decisions from Experience: The Accentuation-of-Differences Model"**

His publication is about how people make decisions. The context in which a decision is made plays a crucial role. So far, the influence of context has been looked at only with regard to decisions that are based on descriptions. The focus has been on decisions that rely entirely on an explicit description of the available options, such as the technical features of a new telephone. Many decisions in our daily life are, however, based on experience: we rely on our experience e.g. with a particular type of telephone.

Spektor and his coauthors have developed a theory about how context influences experience-based decisions. He is the first researcher to demonstrate in his study how various systematic influences of context determine experience-based decisions. And all of these are accounted for in his theory but not by any of the other common theories.

"Especially young researchers often experience setbacks in their research and when submitting their manuscripts. Being awarded a prize of this kind is thus a very gratifying endorsement of my own work and a great motivation for me," says the winner of the Steven Karger Prize. Prof. Dr. Jörg Rieskamp, a member of the jury and a professor at the University of Basel, also underlines the importance of this achievement: "For young scientists, awards such as the Steven Karger Prize can have a significant influence on the development of their academic career. Mr. Spektor has recently been appointed to a professorship at the University of Pompeu Fabra in Barcelona, Spain."

Karger Publishers sees the promotion of young scientists, and especially those located in Basel, as an important mission and one which it gladly and unfailingly fulfils. Karger Publishers has been donating the prize that has been awarded by the Faculty of Psychology since 2003. Since 2008, this prize has been dedicated to the memory of the late CEO Steven Karger. "For us, these prizes are an expression of our gratitude for the trust placed in us as well as an investment in the future of science and society," states Gabriella Karger, Chairwoman of the Board of Directors at S. Karger AG and sister of Steven Karger. Karger Publishers publishes several scientific journals and book series in the fields of **psychology and psychiatry**.

## About Karger Publishers

Karger Publishers is a worldwide publisher of scientific and medical content based in Basel, Switzerland. It is independent and family-led in the fourth generation by Chairwoman and Publisher Gabriella Karger. Connecting and advancing health sciences since 1890, Karger has been continuously evolving, keeping pace with the current developments and shifts in research and publishing. The publishing house is dedicated to serving the information needs of the scientific community, clinicians, and patients with publications of high-quality content and services in health sciences. Karger Publishers has 240 employees and is present in 15 countries around the globe.

For more information please visit [karger.com](https://www.karger.com)

Media Contact:

**Cora Wirtz-Spycher** · Corporate Communications Lead · Karger Publishers  
+41 61 306 1271 · [c.wirtz@karger.com](mailto:c.wirtz@karger.com) · [karger.com/Media-Relations](https://www.karger.com/Media-Relations)

