

# **Preference for Randomization: Empirical and Experimental Evidence**

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*Abstract:* Applicants at the central clearinghouse for university admissions in Germany submit different rank-order lists of universities although only one of the lists will be relevant. Experiments replicate this observation. Between 15% and 40% of participants submit different rank-order lists over prizes where each list is relevant with a certain probability. This violates stochastic dominance. The observed behavior is consistent with (i) indecision or fear of regret, (ii) a preference for expressing utility uncertainty.