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Social preferences in childhood and adolescence. A large-scale experiment to estimate primary and secondary motivations*

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Highlights of the paper
Social preferences in childhood and adolescence. A large-scale experiment to estimate primary and secondary motivations
We study how social preferences develop in childhood and adolescence. We present an experiment with 883 children, aged eight to 17 years. Applying an econometric mixture model, we estimate primary and secondary social preference motivations.
For boys, efficiency concerns are most important, with selfishness being an important secondary motive.
For girls, maximin-preferences are the modal primary and secondary social preference motivation.

Abstract: We elicit social preferences of 883 children and teenagers, aged eight to 17 years, in an experiment. Using an econometric mixture model we estimate a subject’s primary and secondary social preference motivations. The secondary motivation indicates the motivation that becomes relevant when the primary motivation implies indifference between various

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