



THE HEBREW
UNIVERSITY
OF JERUSALEM

We are excited to invite you to a talk by **Alex Shaw** from the Psychology Department at the University of Chicago.

The talk will take place at the business school at the Hebrew University, Mount Scopus, **February 21 (Wednesday), 16:00, room 4128.**

Title:

Friend or Fair? The tensions between favoritism and impartiality

Abstract:

Fairness concerns often guide the way both children and adults think others should share; people like when others are rewarded equally for doing equal work. In my talk I will explore why people might be concerned with fairness. I begin by attempting to rule out that fairness is merely a byproduct of envy and generosity. Specifically, I demonstrate that children (and also adults) care about fairness concerns even when envy is unlikely to be a motivator and when being fair conflicts with generosity: I show that children and adults will waste resources to uphold fairness. I then explore some reasons why children and adults might be fair, and present experiments that suggest part of the motivation behind children's fair behavior is a desire to socially signal they are fair. Next, I present work suggesting that the desire to appear fair is specifically about avoiding the appearance of partiality: child and adult distributors will gladly pay others unequally for equal work as long as doing so does not require being or appearing partial. Based on this work, I argue that fairness concerns function to help agents avoid being judged for being partial. But of course, building alliances is important and so I close with work demonstrating the difficulty people sometimes experience in balancing fairness and alliances.

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