Experimental studies on the psychology of property rights
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Property rights determine who owns what. Trade is very difficult if it is unclear who owns what or if property rights are not enforced. For this reason, many scholars argue that property rights and their enforcement are essential to economic prosperity. A distinction can be made between a legal and psychological approach to property rights. A legal approach to property rights considers how the rules of property rights are codified in law while a psychological approach focuses on how humans tend to think about property rights intuitively.

The two approaches seem to diverge if more unconventional goods are considered. This thesis consists of four studies that investigate how consumers perceive unconventional goods in different contexts. The aim of these four studies combined is to gain a better understanding of consumers’ perception of property rights, which not only furthers relevant theories but also provides practical recommendations to policy-makers and managers.
Experimental studies on the psychology of property rights
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ter verkrijging van de graad van doctor

aan de Universiteit van Amsterdam

op gezag van de Rector Magnificus

prof. dr. ir. K.I.J. Maex

ten overstaan van een door het College voor Promoties

ingestelde commissie, in het openbaar te verdedigen

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# Table of Contents

List of Tables ............................................................................................................. ix
List of Figures ............................................................................................................... x

1. Introduction ........................................................................................................... 1
   1.1. Property Rights ................................................................................................. 1
   1.2. A Basic Taxonomy of Goods ............................................................................. 3
   1.3. The Psychology of Property Rights .................................................................... 6
   1.4. Methodology ....................................................................................................... 8
   1.5. Thesis Overview ................................................................................................. 9

2. The Moral Distinction Between Theft and Piracy .......... 15
   2.1. Introduction ....................................................................................................... 15
   2.2. Theoretical Framework .................................................................................... 17
   2.3. Experiment 1: Moral Evaluation of Piracy and Theft ... 25
   2.4. Experiment 2: Likelihood of Cheating ......................................................... 29
   2.5. Experiment 3: Tangibility versus Rivalry ..................................................... 34
   2.6. Experiment 4: Foregone Gains versus Rivalry ........................................... 38
   2.7. Discussion ......................................................................................................... 42

3. Theft and Piracy: Incentivized Experiments ............... 48
   3.1. Introduction ....................................................................................................... 48
   3.2. Theoretical Framework .................................................................................... 50
   3.3. Study 1: Exchange Game .................................................................................. 56
   3.4. Study 2: Dictator Game .................................................................................... 62
   3.5. Discussion ......................................................................................................... 71
   3.6. Appendix: Experimental Instructions Exchange Game .75
   3.7. Appendix: Experimental Instructions Dictator Game... 76
List of Tables

Table 1.1: A taxonomy of goods .............................................................. 3
Table 2.1: Tangibility, rivalry and appropriation type ................................. 21
Table 3.1: Monetary value of possessions depending on the Buyer’s decision ... 59
Table 3.2: Determinants of perceived ownership after making a decision .... 62
Table 3.3: Final distribution of tokens and payoffs Dictators and Receivers .... 65
Table 3.4: Overview ................................................................................. 66
Table 4.1: Donors’ choice set .................................................................. 89
Table 4.2: Descriptives of initial offers ..................................................... 102
Table 4.3: Descriptives of final offers ....................................................... 105
Table 5.1: Numerical example for the rules of the server-initiated auction ...... 127
Table 5.2: Numerical example for the rules of the customer-initiated auction . 129
Table 5.3: Experimental design and number of participants ....................... 133
Table 5.4: Descriptive statistics ................................................................ 140
Table 5.5: Average efficiency gains .......................................................... 143
Table 5.6: Estimation of efficiency gains .................................................... 145
Table 5.7: Estimations of bids in the server-initiated auction ...................... 147
Table 5.8: Regressions explaining bids in the customer initiated auction ....... 151
Table 5.9: Estimations of likelihood voting for server-initiated auction ......... 154
List of Figures

Figure 2.1: Moral evaluation of theft and piracy.........................................................28
Figure 2.2: Willingness to pay and cheating rate .........................................................33
Figure 2.3: Moral evaluation of theft and piracy.........................................................37
Figure 2.4: Perceived moral acceptability, rivalry and foregone gains ..................41
Figure 3.1: Perceived shared ownership ......................................................................61
Figure 3.2: Cumulative distribution of Dictators’ appropriation .........................67
Figure 3.3: Mean appropriation rate per price range .............................................69
Figure 3.4: Mean actual and expected appropriation rate ..............................70
Figure 4.1: Visualization token distribution...............................................................92
Figure 4.2: Confirmation dialog box ...........................................................................93
Figure 4.3: Cumulative distribution of donors’ initial offers ..........................100
Figure 4.4: Mean initial and final offer per treatment and CRT score ..........108
Figure 5.1: Average bids in the server-initiated auction by position and arrival process .........................................................................................................................149
Figure 5.2: Defenders’ bids in the customer-initiated auction by arrival process .................................................................................................................................152
Figure 5.3: Attackers’ bids in the customer-initiated auction by arrival process .................................................................................................................................153