PANTHÉON-ASSAS
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SÉMINAIRE

SOCIAL DISTANCING AND RISK TAKING: EVIDENCE FROM A TEAM GAME SHOW

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Séminaire du LEMMA

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We examine the risky choices of pairs of contestants in a popular radio game show in France. At the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, the show, traditionally held in person, had to switch to an all-remote format. We find that such an exogenous change in social context affected risk-taking behavior. Remotely, pairs take far fewer risks when the stakes are high than in the flesh. This behavioral difference is consistent with prosocial behavior theories, which argue that the nature of social interactions influences risky choices. Our results suggest that working from home may reduce participation in profitable but risky team projects.

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