



College of Business
and Public Policy
UNIVERSITY of ALASKA ANCHORAGE

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The CBPP Economics Department
invite you to attend the following

Faculty & Student Seminar
Friday, September 14, 2018
3:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m., RH303



Maros Servatka
Professor of Economics
Macquarie Graduate School
of Management
Sydney, Australia

Procrastination in charitable giving

Abstract: We conduct a field experiment to test theoretical predictions regarding the effect of deadline length on task completion. We place our test in a charitable task setting in which participants are invited to complete an online survey, with a donation going to charity if they do so. Participants are given either one week, one month or no deadline by which to respond. Completions are lowest for the one month deadline and highest when no deadline is specified. Our results point out that a short deadline, and not specifying a deadline, signals urgency. By contrast, providing a longer (one month) deadline gives people permission to procrastinate, with people ultimately forgetting to complete the task.