**Project Title:** A Decision Tax in Health-Related Decision Making

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**Project Description:** Most decisions require trade-offs. Since the outbreak of COVID-19, decisions related to routine human behavior and social engagement have emphasized health-related risks. Parents, workers, and those with health-vulnerable family members are now faced with a decision tax on what used to be some of their most mundane decisions. The purpose of this project is to understand the decision tax placed on the ordinary decisions of everyday life in the face of a population health threat.

This project will explore individual perceptions in risk-related trade-offs since the outbreak of COVID-19 using in-depth interviews. Target groups for interviews will include parents of school-aged children, working-aged adults, and those with elderly or otherwise health-vulnerable family members. The objectives of this summer project include: (1) reviewing relevant literature on risk and decision-making; (2) developing and pilot testing an in-depth interview guide focused on the additional layers of decisions related to human behavior created by COVID-19; and (3) conducting interviews with individuals from each of the identified target groups.

**Student Contributions and Qualifications:** Due to COVID-19, student research assistants for this project will work remotely, participating in weekly Zoom (or telephone) project meetings. Responsibilities will involve assisting with a search of the relevant literature and making article and book chapter annotations, and contributing to the development of the in-depth interview guide and its pilot testing. Other duties will include review and cleaning of interview transcripts, and preliminary coding of interview data.