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Dear Readers,

In the first 2025 issue of the *Journal of Behavioral Economics for Policy* we present a collection of contributions from scholars in behavioral economics and related fields, addressing timely real-world questions and fast-moving debates at the intersection of behavior, markets, technology, and policy. With the invaluable support of the Associate Editors and numerous anonymous reviewers, we have selected six articles that successfully passed the Journal's rigorous peer-review process. While the topics span labor markets, work organization, motivation and attention, digital health and AI, sleep and technology habits, and the behavioral content of Large Language Models, all papers share a common aim: bringing behavioral insights and careful empirical or methodological analysis to policy-relevant settings.

The first article, "*Behavioral and Experimental Perspectives on the Minimum Wage Debate*," by Valerio Fedele Addis, revisits a classic policy question through a behavioral and experimental lens. Moving beyond the traditional neoclassical prediction of employment losses from wage floors, the article synthesizes two decades of research showing how fairness perceptions, reciprocity, loss aversion, and social norms shape labor market behavior. Laboratory evidence highlights a durable "ratchet effect" of minimum wages on reservation wages and potential spillovers to higher wages. Importantly, the review emphasizes that workers respond not only to wage levels but also to how wages are set – distinguishing voluntary fairness from legal mandates – and discusses how these mechanisms can help reconcile patterns across laboratory and field findings, with implications for more effective minimum wage policy design.

The second article, "*Working From Home – The Children Conundrum*," by Alexandra Kirienko and Marie Briguglio, studies the role of gender and the presence of children in shaping both the willingness to work from home (WFH) and perceived work quality. Using survey data collected during the COVID-19 period from more than three hundred workers in Malta, the authors estimate models of WFH preferences and self-assessed productivity.

Their results point to strongly gendered experiences: women report higher perceived quality of work at home than men, irrespective of having children, and women show a robust preference for additional WFH arrangements. Moreover, women with children report relatively higher job satisfaction when working from home. Overall, the study underscores how family structure and gender interact to shape WFH outcomes – an issue that remains central for employers and policymakers as hybrid work becomes a lasting feature of labor markets.

The third article, *“Intrinsic Motivation and Altruism under Rational Inattention: Do We Perform Better When We Care?”*, by Zexuan Wang, Selin Yardimci, and Amaury Brandenburg, provides an experimental investigation of motivation, altruism, and cognitive constraints within a rational inattention framework. Using perceptual tasks, the authors report a set of counterintuitive findings: higher intrinsic motivation is associated with worse performance, and higher altruism correlates with lower performance when attention benefits others. They interpret these patterns through a link between altruism, intrinsic motivation, and information (attention) costs, highlighting subtle trade-offs between “caring,” information acquisition, and decision quality. Beyond the immediate results, the paper raises a broader methodological message: cognitive limitations may hinge less on how participants are paid and more on features of experimental design that shape perceived costs of attention.

The fourth article, *“Improving Clinical Trial Enrollment for Smartphone-Based AI Data Collection: A Methodological Analysis of Nudge-Based Interventions,”* by Amil Khanzada, Faisal H. Cheema, and Takuji Takemoto, addresses a practical bottleneck in medical AI development: obtaining high-quality training data through adequate patient enrollment. Drawing on clinical studies involving more than a quarter of a million PCR-tested patients across Colombia, Japan, Pakistan, and India, the authors compare the effectiveness and cost of three recruitment methods for a smartphone app that analyzes breathing and cough sounds to detect COVID-19. They find that robocalls were the most efficient in scale and cost, while face-to-face methods achieved high enrollment rates but were resource-intensive, and flyers were largely ineffective. Building on these operational lessons, the article proposes a targeted framework of nudge-based strategies for improving enrollment in future smartphone-based clinical studies, with clear relevance for the design of data-driven public health innovation.

The fifth article, *“Sleep and mobile phone use habits: Effects of reflection and information behavioral interventions,”* by Armando J. Garcia Pires and Nina Serdarevic, maps mobile phone use and sleep habits in a representative sample of the Norwegian population and evaluates three behavioral interventions aimed at changing routines. The descriptive analysis reveals

meaningful age-group differences in reported causes of poor sleep, and shows that perceptions of mobile phone addictiveness are especially pronounced among younger respondents – who also report greater difficulty putting phones away before bedtime. Turning to the interventions (information, reflection-relaxation-sleeping techniques, and reflection focused on mobile phone habits), the authors find no significant treatment effects relative to the control group on the main outcomes. This null result is itself policy-relevant, suggesting that changing entrenched digital and sleep routines may require alternative approaches – potentially including different intervention designs, regulation, or restrictions.

The sixth and final article, “*Money Illusion in Large Language Models: An Exploratory Replication Study*,” by Milos Ciganovic, Nicole Macchitella, and Luca Panaccione, explores whether Large Language Models (LLMs) exhibit a classic behavioral bias – money illusion – potentially inherited from patterns in training data. The authors conduct an exploratory replication of the scenarios introduced by Shafir, Diamond, and Tversky (1997), comparing responses across twelve settings (earnings, transactions, contracts, and mental accounting) and across six LLMs: GPT-5, GPT-5.1, DeepSeek-V3.2, Grok 4.1, Sonnet 4.5, and Gemini-3-pro-preview. Their evidence suggests that models generally rely on real rather than nominal terms in more objective evaluations, with some exceptions; yet alignment with human responses appears more frequent in contexts involving subjective judgments. While the authors emphasize that larger-scale work is needed for definitive conclusions, the study offers a timely starting point for systematic research on how behavioral regularities may (or may not) manifest in widely deployed AI systems.

Recalling that all articles published in the *Journal of Behavioral Economics for Policy* have gone through a double-blind review process, I thank our Associate Editors for the great work they have done in the evaluation and revision of the articles published in this issue. Please, do not hesitate submitting your research in behavioral economics to the *Journal of Behavioral Economics for Policy*, especially if it has a focus on the implications of behavioral economics for public policy. Submissions and queries should be submitted to jbep@sabeconomics.org.

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Editor-in-Chief

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