Journal of Behavioral Economics for Policy

Vol. 8, Issue 1

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BEHAVIORAL ECONOMICS

The *Journal of Behavioral Economics for Policy* (JBEP) it is an official journal of the *Society for the Advancement of Behavioral Economics* (SABE).

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Introduction to the JBEP Vol. 8, Issue 1

Dear Readers,

This is the first issue of the *Journal of Behavioral Economics for Policy* under my tenure as Editor-in-Chief. It is a great honor to assume this role following the unexpected loss of **Prof. Shabnam Modarres Mousavi.** I have endeavored to uphold the high scientific standards that Shabnam established, continuing along the path laid by previous Editors-in-Chief. With the invaluable support of the Associate Editors and numerous anonymous reviewers, we have selected four articles that successfully passed the Journal's rigorous peer-review process. Each article addresses a distinct, relevant issue in the field of behavioral economics, employing diverse methodologies such as field experiments, systematic literature review, meta-analysis, and cross-sectional analysis.

The first article, *"Does reducing the serving size of beer influence how much students drink on a night out? A randomized controlled field experiment,"* by Pelle G. Hansen, Erik G. Larsen, Amalie-Maria Jacobsen, Mia S. Malthesen, and Mathilde Schilling, presents a randomized controlled field experiment designed to test interventions aimed at reducing alcohol consumption. Specifically, it examines the impact of reducing serving size – both the size of beer glasses and the volume of beer served by 20% – in a student bar setting. The results indicate no significant differences in alcohol consumption between the treatment and control conditions. These findings challenge previous public health research, which suggested that reducing the default serving size of alcohol affects overall consumption, perceptions of portion size, drinking pace, and purchasing behavior.

The second article, *"Can we have an Economic Psychology Manifesto? – 15 proposals for one,"* by Vera Rita de Mello Ferreira, advocates for the development of an Economic Psychology Manifesto. This initiative aims to explore the current state of economic psychology, behavioral economics, and the perspectives of practitioners within these fields, while also outlining potential future directions. The article is inspired by the author's previous research on the history and trends of economic psychology, ongoing debates within IAREP (International Association for Research in Economic

Psychology) about the discipline's identity and goals, and a recent manifesto by a fellow behavioral scientist regarding the application of behavioral insights. The proposed manifesto consists of fifteen detailed topics and concludes with an open invitation to colleagues to engage in this discussion.

The third article, *"Divine prosociality: How religion influences altruism in Dictator Games - A meta-analysis,"* by Matteo Alessandro Ruberto, investigates the potential positive impact of religion on prosocial behavior through a meta-analysis of 39 Dictator Game experiments conducted over the past two decades. Given the mixed findings in prior laboratory and field studies, this comprehensive analysis provides a statistically robust assessment of religion's influence on altruism. The results suggest that religious individuals tend to exhibit marginally greater generosity in the Dictator Game. Moreover, both religious priming and self-reported religiosity are identified as equally effective predictors of altruistic behavior. These findings highlight the nuanced role of religion in promoting prosocial behavior and contribute to a deeper understanding of the mechanisms involved.

The final article, *"Does life satisfaction predict economic preferences? Evidence from cross-sectional data,"* by Donato Pierno, examines the relationship between subjective well-being (SWB) and economic preferences using data from the Gallup World Poll and the Global Preference Survey. First, through a regularized regression model, the study demonstrates that life satisfaction serves as a predictor for several economic preferences, including patience, risk taking, negative reciprocity, altruism, and trust. Second, using a post-double-selection variable selection process, the author assesses the magnitude and statistical significance of SWB's effect on each aforementioned preference, finding a negative effect on trust and positive effects on all the others. From a policy perspective, the study illustrates that subjective well-being, particularly its evaluative dimension of life satisfaction, is a significant predictor of core economic preferences, offering insights into societal behavior patterns based on reported life satisfaction levels.

Recalling that all articles published in the *Journal of Behavioral Economics for Policy* has 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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