

# Journal of Behavioral Economics for Policy

Vol. 7, Issue 1

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

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Dear Readers,

In this issue of the *Journal of Behavioral Economics for Policy* we have a new collection of scientific contributions from scholars in behavioral economics focusing on relevant ongoing real-world issues and on discussions of hot topics in the field of behavioral economics.

The first article, “The Covid-19 Pandemic and the Productivity Paradox,” by Robert N. Mefford, deals with the long-term effects of the Covid-19 in terms of organizational and working changes, due to the introduction and application of new technologies. The article explores the effects of these changes on future productivity growth, by proposing a new approach to measuring productivity, at the same time discussing the behavioral effects of the pandemic on productivity and suggesting policies to further the productivity benefits arising from the pandemic.

The next two articles deal with issues in individual and strategic decision making, respectively. The first article, “Majority Rule Determination and Uncertainty Aversion: A Critical Systematic Review,” by Giulia Papini, surveys the issue of uncertainty in the constitutional design, with emphasis on the majority rule determination, from the constitutional political economy perspective. In particular, the author explains in depth the role of risk aversion and ambiguity aversion on voter’s preferences over majority rules, suggesting that extended models of decision making are needed in order to better capture preferences’ heterogeneity. The second article, “Testing Behaviors of the Play of an Expected Prisoner’s Dilemma,” by Richard Arend, explores experimentally the impact of a new form of game structure – the expected game – showing that it improves the outcomes of a prisoner’s dilemma by decreasing the defection rate. The author then discusses the micro-economic policy implications of these new results.

The next two articles make use of survey data – gathered by the authors – in order to study hot topics in the field of behavioral economics. The former study, by Ariel Kalil, Susan Mayer and Rohen Shah, “Scarcity and Inattention,” use survey data collected shortly after the onset of the pandemic from 345 low-income parents and from the directors of 11 US preschools

attended by the children of these parents, to measure inattention, financial scarcity, and social scarcity (self-report of loneliness). The authors find that both types of scarcity are significantly, positively, and independently associated with inattention. The latter study, “Gender Code-Switching in Economics and Finance,” by Amanda J. Felkey and Dimitra Papadovasilaki, collected data about major choice, gender of personality traits, and personal characteristics among 247 undergraduates from the US in 2020 in order to study if code-switching, that is women’s tendency to use more masculine expressions, affects their choice to major in Economics and Finance. The authors highlight how individuals identifying as more masculine are more likely to major in Economics and Finance, with the effect being twice as large for women as it is for men. Results indicate women who act more masculine are the ones that are “let-in” the field, and or, women become more proficient in code-switching in order to “fit-in” in the field. The costs of code-switching are disproportionately large for women and can partially explain their misrepresentation in the field. Gender code-switching results in increased stress and burnout, causing a lower sense of job satisfaction and higher rates of sapping.

The issue of JBEP is completed by two reviews of recent books that are relevant (and suggested) readings for behavioral economists. In the first one, Urjaswi Mukherjee and Mark Pingle, highlights how Ananish Chaudhuri’s 2021 book *Behavioural Economics and Experiments* introduces the reader to much of what we know about how behavioral economic ideas affect individual decision-making, business decisions, and market dynamics, thereby recommending the book to all who want exposure to behavioral economics. In the second one, Gary D. Lynne, provides a critical view on Glory M. Liu’s exploration of the role that Adam Smith’s thinking has had in forming American Capitalism, in her 2022 “Adam Smith’s America: How a Scottish Philosopher Became an Icon of American Capitalism.”

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 and our Book Review Editor, Alexis Belianin, 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 Editor-in-Chief Shabnam Mousavi, [jbep@sabeconomics.org](mailto:jbep@sabeconomics.org).

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**JBEP 7(1)**

<b>The Covid-19 Pandemic and the Productivity Paradox</b> <i>Robert N. Mefford</i>	<b>11-18</b>
<b>Majority Rule Determination and Uncertainty Aversion: A Critical Systematic Review</b> <i>Giulia Papini</i>	<b>19-24</b>
<b>Testing Behaviors in the Play of an Expected Prisoner's Dilemma</b> <i>Richard Arend</i>	<b>25-33</b>
<b>Scarcity and Inattention</b> <i>Ariel Kalil, Susan Mayer and Rohen Shah</i>	<b>35-42</b>
<b>Gender Code-Switching in Economics and Finance</b> <i>Amanda J. Felkey and Dimitra Papadovasilaki</i>	<b>43-50</b>
 <b>Book reviews</b>	
<b>Behavioural Economics and Experiments, by Ananish Chaudhuri</b> <i>Urjaswi Mukherjee and Mark Pingle</i>	<b>51-52</b>
<b>Adam Smith's America: How a Scottish Philosopher Became an Icon of American Capitalism, by Glory M. Liu</b> <i>Gary D. Lynne</i>	<b>53-55</b>

