Future Directions for Applying Behavioral Economics to Policy

Committee

Alison M. Buttenheim

Co-Chair

Alison M. Buttenheim is a professor of nursing and health policy at the University of Pennsylvania. She is also the scientific director of the University of Pennsylvania’s Center for Health Incentives and Behavioral Economics, as well as the behavioral design lead for Indlela, an HIV-focused nudge unit based in South Africa. As a leading expert in the application of behavioral economics to disease prevention, her research agenda has focused on vaccine acceptance and vaccine exemption policy in the US, zoonotic disease prevention in Peru, and HIV prevention. She received her Ph.D. in public health from the University of California, Los Angeles.

Robert A. Moffitt

Co-Chair

Robert A. Moffitt (NAS) is the Krieger-Eisenhower professor of economics at Johns Hopkins University and holds a joint appointment with the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. He is a fellow of the Econometric Society, a fellow of the Society of Labor Economists, a member of the National Academy of Sciences, a recipient of a MERIT Award from the National Institutes of Health, a recipient of a Guggenheim Fellowship, and a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. He is known for his research on social policy, welfare programs, poverty, family structure, labor markets, income volatility, and applied statistical methods. He is a former president of the Population Association of America and president of the Society of Labor Economists. He was chief editor of the American Economic Review, coeditor of the Review of Economics and Statistics, and chief editor of the Journal of Human Resources. He received his Ph.D. in economics from Brown University.

Stefano DellaVigna

Member

Stefano DellaVigna is the Daniel E. Koshland, Sr. distinguished professor of economics and professor of business administration at the University of California, Berkeley. He is a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and of the Econometric Society, an Alfred P. Sloan fellow, and a Distinguished Teaching Award winner. He specializes in behavioral economics and has published in international journals such as the American Economic Review, the Journal of Political Economy, and the Quarterly Journal of Economics. He has been a co-editor of the American Economic Review since 2017. His recent work has focused on (i) the ability of experts to forecast research results, (ii) the analysis of gender differences in editorial choices and academic honors, and (iii) the impact of nudges and bottlenecks in behavioral policy experiments. He received his Ph.D. in economics from Harvard University.

Catherine C. Eckel

Member

Catherine C. Eckel is Sara and John Lindsey professor and university distinguished professor in the Department of Economics at Texas A&M University, where she directs the behavioral economics and policy program. She is past-president of the Economic Science Association and Southern Economic Association. She served as an NSF program director, was co-editor of the Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization, and on the editorial boards of twelve journals. She received the Carolyn Shaw Bell Award, given by the American Economic Association, Committee on the Status of Women in the Economics Profession, for developing and participating in mentoring programs for women faculty. As an economist specializing in behavioral and experimental research, her contributions span many topics, including financial decision making; altruism and charitable fundraising; preferences and behavior of the urban poor; coordination of counter-terrorism policy; gender differences; racial/ethnic identity and academic achievement. She received her Ph.D. in economics from the University of Virginia.

Angela Fontes

Member

Angela Fontes is an independent consultant focused on household finance and investor decision-making research, with a specific focus on the financial well-being of African American and Hispanic/Latino families. She is the current president of the American Council on Consumer Interests, and on the Board of Directors at the Northwest Center. She is the principal investigator on several projects, including work with the Securities and Exchange Commission to conduct investor protection research and NORC's ongoing collaboration with the FINRA Investor Education Foundation. Her research can be found in journals such as the Hispanic Journal of Behavioral Sciences, the Journal of the American Medical Association, the Journal of Family and Economic Issues, the Journal of Women, Politics, and Policy, and Financial Counseling and Planning. Formerly, she was vice president of the Behavioral and Economic Analysis and Decision-making practice area at NORC at the University of Chicago and worked in business and market research consulting with Chamberlain Research Consultants and Leo Burnett. She is adjunct faculty at Northwestern University where she teaches graduate courses in behavioral economics and public policy, policy analysis, predictive analytics, and research writing. She received her Ph.D. in consumer behavior and family economics with a minor in sociology from the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Joshua S. Graff Zivin

Member

Joshua S. Graff Zivin is a professor of economics at UC San Diego, where he holds faculty positions in the School of Global Policy & Strategy and the Department of Economics. He is also the director of the Center on Global Transformation and a Research Associate at the National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER). Prior to joining UCSD, he was an associate professor of economics in the Mailman School of Public Health and the School of International and Public Affairs at Columbia University, where he served as the director of the Ph.D. Program in sustainable development. He has published numerous articles on a wide range of topics in top economic, policy, and medical journals. His research interests are broad and include the areas of environmental, health, development, and innovation economics. Policy relevance serves as a guiding force behind all of this work. He received his Ph.D. in agricultural and resource economics from the University of California, Berkeley.

Rachel E. Kranton

Member

Rachel E. Kranton (NAS) is the James B. Duke professor of economics at Duke University and is currently serving as dean of social sciences in Duke's Trinity College of Arts & Sciences. She studies how institutions and the social setting affect economic outcomes. She develops theories of networks and has introduced identity into economic thinking. Her research contributes to many fields including microeconomics, economic development, and industrial organization. She is a member of the National Academy of Sciences, the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, a fellow of the Econometric Society, and was awarded a Chaire Blaise Pascal. She is launching, along with collaborators, a new research network, Economic Research on Identity, Norms, and Narratives (ERINN). She received her Ph.D. in economics at the University of California, Berkeley.

Leonard M. Lopoo

Member

Leonard M. Lopoo is the Paul Volcker chair in behavioral economics and the director of the Center for Policy Research at the Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs at Syracuse University. He is also the co-founder and director of the Maxwell X Lab, a research lab that collaborates with public sector partners to develop and evaluate behavioral interventions. He has served on the Population Sciences Subcommittee of the Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development and is an elected fellow of the National Academy of Public Administration. He studies the efficacy of behavioral interventions designed to increase program enrollment and reduce costs in public service delivery. His other primary branch of research asks if social policies, such as the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program, the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, and the Medicaid program, impact family formation decisions. He received his Ph.D. in public policy studies at the University of Chicago.

Eldar Shafir

Member

Eldar Shafir is Class of 1987 professor of behavioral science and public policy at Princeton University, director of Princeton's Kahneman-Treisman Center for Behavioral Science and Public Policy, scientific director at ideas42, a not-for-profit social science R&D lab, and visiting professor at Oxford University. His research focuses on cognitive science and behavioral economics, with a particular interest in the application of behavioral research to policy. He is past president of the Society for Judgment and Decision Making, a Guggenheim fellow, and an elected member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. He served as a member of President Barack Obama's Advisory Council on Financial Capability and was named one of Foreign Policy Magazine's 100 Leading Global Thinkers in 2013. He edited "The Behavioral Foundations of Public Policy (2012)," and co-authored, "Scarcity: Why Having Too Little Means So Much (2013)." He received his Ph.D. from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Stacey Sinclair

Member

Stacey A. Sinclair is a professor of psychology and public affairs at Princeton University. She has published numerous scholarly articles on the psychology of intergroup relations in outlets such as Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America, Journal of Personality and Social Psychology, Psychological Science and Policy Insights from the Behavioral and Brain Sciences. She is a fellow at the Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues (SPSSI), the American Psychological Association (APA), the Society for Personality and Social Psychology (SPSP), and the Association for Psychological Science (APS). Her research examines how inter-group and within-group interpersonal interactions serve as a vehicle by which prejudice and stereotypes are perpetuated, as well as how such interactions can reduce prejudice. Her lab is currently focused on how these factors shape the health and intellectual performance of members of stigmatized groups. She received her Ph.D. in social psychology from the University of California at Los Angeles.

Jennifer S. Trueblood

Member

Jennifer S. Trueblood is associate professor of psychology and chancellor faculty at Vanderbilt University and former president of the Society for Mathematical Psychology. Her research takes a joint experimental and computational modeling approach to study human judgment, decision-making, and reasoning. She studies how people make decisions when faced with multiple, complex alternatives and options involving different risks and rewards. To address these questions, she develops probabilistic and dynamic models that can explain behavior and uses hierarchical Bayesian methods for data analysis and model-based inference. Her research contributions in decision-making, psychology, and computational modeling have been recognized by the William K. Estes Early Career Award from the Society for Mathematical Psychology, the Early Career Award from the Psychonomic Society, an Alfred P. Sloan Foundation Research Fellowship for early-career researchers, the Early Investigator Award from the Society of Experimental Psychologists, and the Janet Taylor Spence Award from the Association for Psychological Science. She received her Ph.D. in cognitive science from Indiana University, Bloomington.

Peter A. Ubel

Member

Peter A. Ubel (NAM) is the Madge and Dennis T. McLawhorn university professor of business, public policy, and medicine at Duke University. A physician and a behavioral scientist, he uses the tools of decision psychology and behavioral economics to explore topics like informed consent, shared decision making, and health care cost containment. He has authored over 300 academic publications, the majority of which involve empirical explorations of decision psychology as it pertains to health care. He has also written for the New York Times, the Los Angeles Times, the Atlantic, the New Yorker, and is a regular contributor at Forbes. His books include Pricing Life (MIT Press 2000), Free Market Madness (Harvard Business Press, 2009) Critical Decisions (HarperCollins, 2012), and Sick to Debt (Yale University Press, 2019). He received his M.D. from the University of Minnesota, Rochester.

Kevin G. Volpp

Member

Kevin G. Volpp (NAM) is the Mark V. Pauly presidential distinguished professor at the Perelman School of Medicine and the Wharton School, and director of Penn Center for Health Incentives and Behavioral Economics (CHIBE) at the University of Pennsylvania. At CHIBE, he leads many important experimental tests of new applications to behavioral economics to improve health and health care. He has published more than 300 papers and has expertise in secondary data and experimental measures as well as extensive experience working with public and private sector organizations on the creation and evaluation of new programs. Programs based on his team’s research have led to health-promoting programs in place that affect tens of millions of Americans. He has won career achievement awards from NIH for his work in social and behavioral sciences, from the Society of General Internal Medicine, and the Association for Translational Research. He is a member of the National Academy of Medicine. He received his Ph.D. in health economics and M.D from the University of Pennsylvania.