

# SUMMER INSTITUTE IN BEHAVIORAL ECONOMICS

June 28 to July 9, 2020

*Sponsored by the Russell Sage Foundation*

From the evening of Sunday June 28 to the morning of Thursday July 9, 2020, the Russell Sage Foundation will sponsor the fourteenth Summer Institute in Behavioral Economics, to be held in Waterville Valley, New Hampshire. The purpose of this workshop is to introduce graduate students and beginning faculty in economics and related disciplines to the findings and methods of behavioral economics—the application of psychological theory and research to economics. The program will include topics on psychological foundations such as decision-making under risk and uncertainty, intertemporal choice, biases in judgment, mental accounting, and social preferences, as well as the implications of these foundations for savings behavior, labor markets, development economics, finance, public policy, and other economic topics.

The co-organizers and principal faculty of the Summer Institute are David Laibson and Matthew Rabin, who will be in attendance for the full program. Visiting faculty include Raj Chetty, Rebecca Dizon-Ross, George Loewenstein, Ulrike Malmendier, Heather Schofield, Richard Thaler, and Lise Vesterlund. The schedule will include sessions outlining evidence, principles, and formal models of psychological foundations of different economic topics as well as sessions presenting recent research. It will also provide opportunities for students to discuss their ideas and research with the organizers, visiting faculty, and other participants.

Participation is (sorry, no exceptions) restricted to Ph.D. students who by July 2020 will have completed at least one year of their graduate program or to faculty who have completed their Ph.D. program since April 2019. Candidates in related disciplines (e.g., psychology, business, political science and law) who have a strong interest and advanced training in formal economics are also eligible. Most participant costs during the workshop, including housing and most meals, will be covered, and a capped travel stipend (covering most but not all of anticipated travel costs) will also be provided. About twenty-five participants will be invited. Participants will be required to complete some assigned readings in advance, and to fully attend all sessions of the program.

There is no program information beyond this announcement. (For interested students, schedules of the previous seven summer institutes can be found at Summer Institute in Behavioral Economics <http://scholar.harvard.edu/laibson/node/31619>.) Applications must be submitted via the RSF online application portal, [Fluxx](#). **Instructions:** 1.) Create an account or log in to your existing account. (*Allow 1 business day for a new account to be approved; please register by March 9, 2020.*) 2.) Start a new “Summer Institute” application and select “Behavioral Economics”. 3.) Submit the following documents: (i) a curriculum vitae, (ii) a statement (maximum three pages) describing both any current research, and your interest in behavioral economics, (iii) an (unofficial) course/grade transcript, and (iv) two letters of recommendation from faculty advisors. Letters of recommendation should be as informative as possible about your standing in the program (i.e., approximate rank in your doctoral class), general ability, research potential, and (if applicable) special interest in behavioral economics. We anticipate a large pool of highly qualified applicants and to make final decisions quickly, so applications and letters must be received by the deadline. **Complete applications, including letters of recommendation, must be submitted by Friday, March 13.** We will notify applicants by Monday, April 6, and will ask participants to confirm their participation very soon thereafter. Inquiries can be sent to [RSF.Summer.School@gmail.com](mailto:RSF.Summer.School@gmail.com). Technical questions about the application portal (Fluxx) can be sent to [grantsmgt@rsage.org](mailto:grantsmgt@rsage.org).

The Summer Institute is an initiative of the Russell Sage Foundation. For more information about RSF’s Behavioral Economics program, see: <http://www.russellsage.org/research/behavioral-economics>.