SUMMER INSTITUTE IN BEHAVIORAL ECONOMICS

July 1 to July 13, 2012

Sponsored by the Russell Sage Foundation's Behavioral Economics Roundtable

From the evening of Sunday July 1 to the morning of Friday July 13, 2012, the Russell Sage Foundation will sponsor the tenth 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 workshop 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 Colin Camerer, Stefano DellaVigna, George Loewenstein, Ulrike Malmendier, Sendhil Mullainathan, and Richard Thaler. The schedule will include sessions broadly outlining psychological foundations of different economic topics, seminars presenting recent research papers applying psychology to economics, and 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 2012 will have completed at least one year of their graduate program or to faculty who have completed their Ph.D. program since April 2011. 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 thirty participants will be invited. Participants will be required to complete some assigned readings in advance, and to fully attend all sessions of the complete program.

There is no application form nor program information beyond this announcement. (For interested students, schedules of the 2006, 2008, and 2010 summer institutes can be found at http://ws1.ad.economics.harvard.edu/faculty/laibson/summer12.) To apply, send (i) a curriculum vitae, (ii) a statement (maximum three pages) describing both any current research, and your interest in behavioral economics, (iii) a 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 class), general ability, research potential, and (if applicable) special interest in behavioral economics. All applications must include an e-mail and an alternative means of contact (e.g., phone number). Send your curriculum vita, statement, and course/grade transcript (all collapsed into a ***single*** pdf file) to RSF.Summer.School@gmail.com. Ask your recommenders to send their letters to the same email address, with the following subject line: **RSF recommendation letter for APPLICANT NAME.** 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 received by Friday, March 9.*** We will notify applicants solely by e-mail by Monday, April 16, and ask participants to confirm their participation very soon thereafter. Inquiries can be sent to RSF.Summer.School@gmail.com.

The Summer Institute is an initiative of the Russell Sage Foundation and its Behavioral Economics Roundtable. For information and a list of members of the Roundtable, see: http://www.russellsage.org/research/behavioral-economics-detailed