who we are

The Behavioral Science & Policy Association is a global public and private sector community of decision makers, behavioral science researchers, policy analysts, and other practitioners with a bold mission to promote the application of rigorous behavioral science research to concrete policy solutions in ways that serve the public interest. Our vision is to be the principal global hub of applied behavioral science research, promoting innovative behavioral solutions to a range of social challenges.

Behavioral Science & Policy

*BSP* is an interdisciplinary joint publication of BSPA and the Brookings Institution, and is an international, dual peer-reviewed journal for short-form and accessible articles that encourages, vets, and promotes new advances in private- and public-sector behavioral policymaking. Edited by foremost disciplinary scholars for scientific rigor, and leading policy analysts for relevance and feasibility of implementation, manuscripts that pass this dual-review are professionally edited to ensure accessibility to a broad audience - including policy makers, executives, behavioral scientists, and educated lay readers. *BSP* is not limited to a particular point of view or political ideology.

As *BSP* covers extensive policy areas and represents a number of behavioral science disciplines, we seek to highlight one or two particular policy areas in each issue by designating a ‘spotlight topic’ or cluster of papers, typically based on the output developed in one of our workshop events (and supplemented by an open call for submissions). Spotlight topics comprise a substantial proportion of articles per publication (approximately 40-70% of each issue, where issues contain around 10 articles), and rotate among different general policy areas (e.g. Financial Decision Making, Health etc), but highlight specific topics within those areas (e.g. ‘Campaign Finance Disclosure’).

spotlight workshops

BSPA co-hosts a ‘spotlight workshop’ during which potential authors of manuscripts can present relevant work proposing applications of behavioral science within a specific theme or ‘spotlight’ of choice -- ideally with a view to publication in our journal. A one-day event is held, with possible collaboration from a university/research partner, hosting an interdisciplinary group of researchers, practitioners, and private-/public- sector experts operating in the space. to give feedback to those presenting their research findings (whether such material is actionable, for instance), and also creating an opportunity for the participants to identify new opportunities to inform the research agenda in a particular space. In addition, an open call for papers will be initiated around this Spotlight to allow researchers on a global level to contribute to the publication, even if they cannot attend the workshop in person, in order to encourage an influx of high-quality submissions.

Interested in co-hosting a spotlight? We’d love to speak with you to talk more about how we can help you further your research agenda, and promote behavioral science!

become a member

There is a growing movement to ground important decisions in strong scientific evidence. We are a key part of that movement. Signing up is easy, just visit behavioralpolicy.org/signup/

get involved

Interested in policy-relevant research, hearing more about bspa, or writing for BSPA’s blog, Policyshop, or Behavioral Scientist? Contact Dave Nussbaum at davenussbaum@behavioralpolicy.org for more information.