

**Alliance to Advance Liberal Arts Colleges
Faculty Workshop Proposal 2020**

Submitted by:

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Other faculty who have expressed interest in attending:

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Liberal Arts College Behavioral and Experimental Economics (LACBEE) Workshop

We aim to gather experimental and behavioral economists from liberal arts colleges across the country to share research and pedagogy, and to build professional networks to encourage collaboration and mentorship between institutions.

Experimental economists study decision making in controlled environments, while behavioral economists study deviations from traditional economic models, often by integrating insights from other disciplines such as psychology and biology. Experimental and behavioral economics are closely related fields that tend to focus on material and methodology that is atypical within many economics departments. As a result, faculty in these fields often depend heavily on external networks for collaboration, guidance, and feedback. Our goal is to strengthen the ties between experimental and behavioral economists at liberal arts colleges, encouraging the sharing of teaching methodology and materials, as well as fostering collaboration on research projects.

Our plans for a workshop are inspired by successful examples from analogous groups of development economists (LACDEV) and macroeconomists (Liberal Arts Macro). Jessica Hoel and Jonathan Lafky have organized a small pilot workshop in the summer of 2019, graciously funded by Colorado College. Next year we intend to organize a larger workshop that will serve as the model for an annual gathering.

We propose a two-day event focused equally on teaching and scholarship. For research, presenters will be allotted 30-45 minutes to present their work and receive extensive feedback. We will also organize discussions of how to find funding for experimental work, which is often especially challenging for liberal arts college professors. For teaching, we will hold four hour-long sessions in which we will break into small groups to discuss specific issues. For example, topics might include: choosing papers to assign in elective classes; running in-class experiments; student-led experiments at small schools, etc. More details about the 2019 pilot workshop can be found on the LACBEE website here: <https://sites.google.com/view/lacbee/>

The large majority of participants will be faculty at AALAC institutions, however we will also extend invitations to some faculty at similar non-AALAC institutions. We believe that AALAC faculty will benefit from the presence of non-AALAC faculty, thanks to increased opportunities for sharing ideas on teaching and research. Any non-AALAC participants will be charged a registration fee to offset the cost of their meals, and will not be provided with transportation or lodging.

One of our goals is to encourage the long-run viability of LACBEE workshops. Shortly after the workshop we will survey all participants asking for their reflections on what was most useful, and what they would like to see added or improved in future years. Several months after the workshop, we will ask participants if they have kept in contact with other participants, and whether any teaching or research collaborations can be attributed to the workshop. We will then compile the responses into a report to be shared with future workshop organizers. We also plan to offer \$1000 in seed funding for a similar workshop in 2021, conditional upon an AALAC faculty member volunteering to host the event.