

SYON PANDYA BHANOT

sbhanot1@swarthmore.edu

www.syonbhanot.com

Contact Information

Kohlberg Hall 206
Swarthmore College
Swarthmore, PA 19081

Academic Positions

Swarthmore College, Associate Professor (with tenure), Economics, 2021-present

Previously: Swarthmore College, Assistant Professor, Economics, 2015-2021

The Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania, Adjunct Associate Professor, 2023-present

Other Research Affiliations and Positions

MIT, Applied Cooperation Initiative: Senior Researcher (2015-present)

The Busara Center for Behavioral Economics: Board Member (2024-present); Research Affiliate (2015-present)

The Philadelphia Behavioral Science Initiative: Academic Lead and Co-Founder (2016-present)

Behavioral and Experimental Economists of the Mid-Atlantic: President (2017-19); Vice-President (2019-present)

Princeton University, Kahneman-Treisman Center for Behavioral Science & Public Policy: Visiting Fellow (2018-19)

U.S. Office of Evaluation Sciences: Academic Affiliate (2021-present)

Swarthmore College, Environmental Studies Program: Faculty Affiliate (2021-present)

Education

Harvard University, Cambridge, MA

Ph.D. in Public Policy (2015); Master in Public Policy (2009)

Princeton University, Princeton, NJ

B.A., Public Policy (2006) - Princeton School of Public and International Affairs

Teaching Experience and Awards

Awards

2009, 2011, 2012 - Harvard Kennedy School Dean's Award for Excellence in Student Teaching

2009 - Harvard College Certificate of Distinction in Teaching

Selected Recent Courses: (full list at <http://www.syonbhanot.com/teaching/>)

Swarthmore College

Fall 2023	ECON 035: Econometrics
Spring 2024	ECON 055: Behavioral Economics
Fall 2023	ECON 155: Behavioral and Experimental Economics Seminar
Spring 2020	ECON 001: Introduction to Economics
Spring 2016	ECON 056: Behavioral Science and Public Policy

Professional Activities

Conferences/Workshops (Attending and/or Presenting)

Jan 2010: Judgment and Decision-Making Camp, Harvard Business School, Cambridge, MA

Jul 2010: NBER Summer Institute, Cambridge, MA

Jun 2012: Price Theory Summer Program, University of Chicago, Chicago, IL

Jul 2012: Socioeconomic Inequality Summer Program, University of Chicago, Chicago, IL

Mar 2014 SXSW Education Conference, Austin, TX, **panelist**

Mar 2014 Spring School in Behavioral Economics, UCSD Rady School, San Diego, CA, **poster**
 Mar 2014 Field Experimentation Conference – UCSD Rady School, San Diego, CA
 Aug 2012, 2013, & 2014: Startuponomics Conferences, San Francisco, CA
 Dec 2014: Economics PhD Conference, University of Leicester, United Kingdom, **presenter**
 Feb-Mar 2015: Eastern Economics Association, New York City, NY, **presenter, chair & discussant**
 May 2015: World Bank Development Impact Evaluation (DIME) Workshop, Istanbul, Turkey, **presenter**
 Jul 2015: RSF Conference for Early-Career Behavioral Economists, Chicago, IL, **discussant**
 Jul 2015: Summer Institute on Field Experiments, University of Chicago, Chicago, IL
 Oct 2015: BEEMA Conference, Haverford, PA, **presenter & scientific committee member**
 Feb 2016: AALAC Workshop: Enhanced Inclusivity in Economics, Claremont, CA
 Apr 2016: White House SBST Behavioral Design Workshop, Johannesburg, South Africa, **presenter**
 May 2016: Philadelphia Behavioral Science Initiative Workshop, Philadelphia, PA, **presenter & organizer**
 Jun 2016: Behavioral Exchange 2016, Cambridge, MA
 Jun 2016: World Bank Transport Workshop, Nairobi, Kenya, **presenter**
 Nov 2016: North East Universities Development Conference, Cambridge, MA, **presenter & discussant**
 Jan 2017: WEAI Conference, Santiago, Chile, **presenter**
 Jan 2017: The Judgment and Decision-Making Winter Symposium, Snowbird, UT, **presenter**
 May 2017: Philadelphia Behavioral Science Initiative Workshop, Philadelphia, PA, **presenter & organizer**
 Jun 2017: Early-Career Behavioral Economics Conference, Pittsburgh, PA, **discussant**
 Sep 2017: Advances in Field Experiments Conference, Chicago, IL, **presenter**
 Oct 2017: BEEMA Conference, Swarthmore, PA, **lead organizer & presenter**
 Jan 2018: The Judgment and Decision-Making Winter Symposium, Snowbird, UT, **presenter**
 Feb 2018: WECAN Workshop, New Haven, CT, **invited attendee & presenter**
 May 2018: BSPA Annual Conference, Washington, DC, **invited attendee & presenter**
 Jun 2018: Early-Career Behavioral Economics Conference, Bergen, Norway, **discussant**
 Oct 2018: Advances in Field Experiments Conference, Boston, MA, **presenter**
 Oct 2018: Philadelphia Behavioral Science Initiative Conference, Philadelphia, PA, **presenter & organizer**
 Mar 2019: WEAI Conference, Tokyo, Japan, **session organizer & presenter**
 Jun 2019: Public Management Research Conference, Chapel Hill, NC, **presenter**
 Nov 2014-19: Google Startuponomics Conferences (annual), Dublin, Ireland, **lead organizer & presenter**
 Oct 2019: BEEMA Conference, Villanova, PA, **organizer & presenter**
 Jan 2020: The Judgment and Decision-Making Winter Symposium, Snowbird, UT, **presenter**
 Jan 2022: AEA/ASSA Annual Meeting, **presenter**
 Oct 2022: LACDEV 2022, Wellesley, MA
 Nov 2022: BEEMA6, Camden, NJ, **presenter**
 Nov 2022: SJDM Annual Conference, San Diego, CA
 May 2023: SBEERC, Philadelphia, PA
 July 2023: LACBEE, Swarthmore, PA, **conference co-host & presenter**
 Jan 2024: The Judgment and Decision-Making Winter Symposium, Snowbird, UT, **presenter**
 Mar 2024: Eastern Economics Association, Boston, MA, **presenter**
 May 2024: AEA CTREE, Atlanta, GA, **panelist & discussant**
 June 2024: Field Experiments in Government Workshop, Washington, DC, **keynote speaker**
 May 2025: International Meeting on Experimental and Behavioural Social Sciences, Valencia, Spain, **presenter**
 June 2025: ESA Africa Meeting, Nairobi, Kenya, **conference and workshop presenter**
 January 2026: The Judgment and Decision-Making Winter Symposium, Snowbird, UT, **presenter**
 July 2026: International Meeting on Experimental and Behavioural Social Sciences, Prague, Czechia, **presenter**

Invited Academic Seminars/Presentations

2014: Behavioral Insights Team UK
 2015: Ideas42; University of Pennsylvania (Wharton School); Bates College
 2016: Manhattan College
 2017: University of Pennsylvania (Wharton School); American University

2018: World Bank eMBed; Haverford College; Trinity College, Dublin
2019: University of Pennsylvania; Syracuse University (Maxwell School)
2022: Lehigh University; Trinity College, Dublin
2024: University of Virginia, Pomona College

Editorial Board Memberships

Journal of Behavioral Public Administration (2020-present)

Referee Work

Behavioral Science and Policy; Behavioral Sciences; The Economic Journal; Journal of Behavioral and Experimental Economics; Journal of Behavioral Public Administration; Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization; Journal of Economic Education; Journal of Human Resources; Management Science; Organizational Behavior and Human Decision Processes; PLOS ONE; Public Administration Review; Public Choice; Review of Economics and Statistics; American Economic Journal: Economic Policy; American Economic Review: Insights; Environmental & Resource Economics; Health Economics; International Review of Economics Education; American Political Science Review; Economics Letters; Perspectives on Public Management and Governance; Central European Public Administration Review; Policy and Society; Water Economics and Policy

Research Grants, Fellowships, and Awards

2011 Harvard Mind, Brain, and Behavior (MBB) Research Grant (\$8,300)
2012 Harvard Program on Negotiation 'Next Generation' Grants (\$4,650)
2014 Harvard Program on Negotiation 'Next Generation' Grants (\$4,000)
2014 Weiss Family Program Fund Research Grant (\$21,766.50)
2015 Harvard Environmental Economics Program Enel Endowment Prize (best paper by a Harvard doctoral student in environmental, resource, or energy economics)
2015 Swarthmore College Faculty Research Support Grant (\$3,300)
2016 Swarthmore College Lang Center Research Development Grant (\$5,000)
2016 Mellon Tri-Co Faculty Forum Roots Grant (\$6,000)
2017 Russell Sage Small Awards Grant Program in Behavioral Economics (\$7,300)
2017 Swarthmore College Lang Center Research Development Grant (\$3,000)
2017 Swarthmore College Faculty Research Support Grant (\$3,450)
2019 Swarthmore College Faculty Research Support Grant (\$3,500)
2020 Swarthmore College Lang Center Engaged Scholarship Research Grant (\$5,000)
2021 Swarthmore College Faculty Research Support Grant (\$3,500)
2023 Swarthmore College Faculty Research Support Grant (\$3,600)
2025 Swarthmore College Faculty Research Support Grant (\$4,000)

Books

Behavioral Public Policy in a Global Context: Practical Lessons from Outside the Nudge Unit. Palgrave Macmillan. 2023. [Co-edited with Michael Sanders and Shibeal O'Flaherty] ([Link](#))

Published Papers/Chapters (grouped by year)

2026 & Forthcoming

[*Book Chapter*] Bhanot, S.P., and Deshpande, A. 2026. Doing Experimental Economics in Developing Countries. In: Rees-Jones, A. (ed) *Handbook of Experimental Methods in the Social Sciences*. Edward Elgar Publishing. ([Link](#))

2025

Bhanot, S.P. 2025. Politicians as Persuaders: A Field Experiment on Messenger Effects and Social Program Uptake. *Journal of Behavioral Public Administration* 8(1). ([Link](#)) ***Winner of the 2025 "Best Paper Award" in the Journal of Behavioral Public Administration***

2024

O' Flaherty, S., Martin, L., Bhanot, S., Hall, C., Gilke, S., Simko, T., and Steffel, M. 2024. How Academics and Policymakers Can Collaborate Effectively: Lessons from Using Behavioral Science to Improve U.S. Federal Government Policies. *Behavioral Science & Policy*. ([Link](#))

2023

[Book Chapter] Bhanot, S.P., Chainani, A., and Schwarz, S. Putting Behavioral Science to Work in the City of Brotherly Love and Sisterly Affection: The Philadelphia Behavioral Science Initiative. In: Sanders, M., Bhanot, S., O' Flaherty, S. (eds) *Behavioral Public Policy in a Global Context*. Palgrave Macmillan. ([Link](#))

Banko, D., Bengali, L., and S.P. Bhanot. 2023. Bringing Behavioral Economics Fully into Behavioral Public Administration. *Journal of Behavioral Public Administration* 6(1). ([Link](#))

Bhanot, S.P. 2023. Reshaping a Course for COVID Along 5 Dimensions: Lessons from "Behavioral Economics" at Swarthmore College. *Journal of Economic Education* 54(2). ([Link](#))

2022

Bhanot, S.P., and S. Heller. 2022. Does Administrative Burden Deter Young People? Evidence from Summer Jobs Programs. *Journal of Behavioral Public Administration* 5(1). ([Link](#))

Golos, A., S.P. Bhanot, D. Hopkins, and A. Bottenheim. 2022. Partisanship, Messaging, and the COVID-19 Vaccine: Evidence from Survey Experiments. *American Journal of Health Promotion*. ([Link](#))

2021

Bhanot, S.P., B. Crost, J. Leight, E. Mvukiyeye, and B. Yedgenov. 2021. Can Community Service Grants Foster Social and Economic Integration for Youth? A Randomized Trial in Kazakhstan. *Journal of Development Economics*. ([Link](#))

Bhanot, S.P. 2021. Isolating the Effect of Injunctive Norms on Conservation Behavior: New Evidence from a Field Experiment in California. *Organizational Behavior and Human Decision Processes* 163: 30-42. ([Link](#))

Bhanot, S.P. 2021. Good for You or Good for Us?: A Field Experiment on Motivating Citizen Behavior Change. *Journal of Behavioral Public Administration* 4(1). ([Link](#))

2020

Banker, S., S.P. Bhanot, and A. Deshpande. 2020. Poverty Identity and Preference for Challenge: Evidence from the U.S. and India. *Journal of Economic Psychology* 76. ([Link](#))

Bayer, A., S.P. Bhanot, E. Bronchetti, and S. O'Connell. 2020. Diagnosing the Learning Environment for Diverse Students in Introductory Economics: An Analysis of Relevance, Belonging, and Growth Mindsets. *AEA Papers & Proceedings* 110: 294-298. ([Link](#))

Bhanot, S.P., and E. Linos. 2020. Behavioral Public Administration: Past, Present, and Future. *Public Administration Review* 80(1), 168-171. ([Link](#))

Bhanot, S.P., and C. Williamson. 2020. Financial Incentives and Herding: Evidence from Two Online Experiments. *Southern Economic Journal* 86(4), 1559-1575. ([Link](#))

Bhanot, S.P., D. Chang, J. Lee Cunningham, and M. Ranson. 2020. Emotions and Decisions in the Real World: What Can We Learn from Quasi-Field Experiments? *PLOS ONE* 15(12). ([Link](#); [PDF](#))

Bhanot, S.P., and D. Hopkins. 2020. Partisan Polarization and Resistance to Elite Messages: Results from Survey Experiments on Social Distancing. *Journal of Behavioral Public Administration* 3(2). ([Link](#))

Arraiz, I., S.P. Bhanot, and C. Calero. 2020. When Reciprocity Backfires: Experimental Evidence from Ecuador. *Journal of Behavioral Economics for Policy* 4(1): 29-42. ([Link](#))

2019

Yoeli, E., J. Rathauer, S.P. Bhanot, M.K. Kimenye, E. Mailu, E. Masini, P. Owiti, and D. Rand. 2019. Digital Health Support in Treatment for Tuberculosis. *The New England Journal of Medicine* 381(10): 986-987. ([Link](#))

Bayer, A., S.P. Bhanot, and F. Lozano. 2019. Does Simple Information Provision Lead to More Diverse Classrooms?: Evidence from a Field Experiment on Undergraduate Economics. *AEA Papers & Proceedings* 109: 110-114. ([Link](#))

Bhanot, S.P., C.A. Roberto, A. Chainani, C. Williamson, and M. den Braven. 2019. Testing Effects of Loss-Framing and Checklists: Evidence from a Field Experiment on Wellness Program Participation in Philadelphia. *Journal of The Economic Science Association* 5(2): 210-222. ([Link](#))

2018

Bhanot, S.P., J. Han and C. Jang. 2018. Workfare, Wellbeing and Consumption: Evidence from a Field Experiment with Kenya's Urban Poor. *Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization* 149: 372-388. ([Link](#))

Bhanot, S.P., G. Kraft-Todd, D. Rand and E. Yoeli. 2018. Putting Social Rewards and Identity Salience to the Test: Evidence from a Field Experiment on Teachers in Philadelphia. *Journal of Behavioral Public Administration* 1(1). ([Link](#))

2017

Bhanot, S.P. 2017. Cheap Promises: Evidence from Loan Repayment Pledges in an Online Experiment. *Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization* 140: 226-246. ([Link](#))

Bhanot, S.P. 2017. Rank and Response: A Field Experiment on Peer Information and Water Use Behavior. *Journal of Economic Psychology* 62: 155-172. ([Link](#))

2015

G. Kraft-Todd, E. Yoeli, S. Bhanot and D. Rand. 2015. Promoting Cooperation in the Field. *Current Opinion in Behavioral Sciences* 3: 96-101. ([Link](#))

Working Papers/Research in Progress

“Public Good Messaging Motivates the Wealthy to Reduce Water Consumption” (with Gordon Kraft-Todd, David Rand, and Erez Yoeli) ([Link](#)) ***Revise & Resubmit, Nature Communications***

“Easily Endowed But Not Easily Anchored: Testing Behavioral Biases at a Kenyan Market” (with Salima Bourguiba, Cedric Christensen, and Bingxin Tu) ***Revise & Resubmit, Journal of Behavioral Decision Making***

“Pronoun Disclosure and Altruism” (with Emily Dai)

“A Consensus Statement on Potential Negative Impacts of Smartphone and Social Media Use on Adolescent Mental Health” (with many coauthors) ([Link](#))

“Interactive Text Messaging for Financial Behavior Change: Evidence from Zambia” (with Justin Archer, Anu Puthenmadathil Jose, Michael King, Aashish Panta and Siegfried Zottel)

“Less is More: Experimental Evidence on Heuristic-Based Business Training in Ecuador” (with Irani Arraiz and Carla Calero)

Popular Press Articles

"You're Stronger Than Your Quarantine Fatigue." *New York Times: Op-Ed*. May 5, 2020.

“How to Get People to Pitch In” (with David Rand, Gordon Kraft-Todd, and Erez Yoeli). *New York Times: Op-Ed*. May 15, 2015.

Other Publications

“Motivated by the Masses: Social Information as a Policy Tool” (with Vivien Caetano). *The Harvard Kennedy School Review*. 2015. p. 17-22.