

Field Experiments in Economics

Lecturer: Dr. Igor Asanov

Language: English

Format: Lecture + Seminars

Time and Place:

06.11.2023 – 12:00-18:00 Room 0150/1060 ZUB, University of Kassel, Kassel, Germany

07.11.2023 – 12:00-18:00 Room 0150/1060 ZUB, University of Kassel, Kassel, Germany

08.11.2023 – 12:00-14:00 Room 0150/1060 ZUB, University of Kassel, Kassel, Germany

09.11.2023 – 12:00-18:00 Senatssaal, University of Kassel, Kassel, Germany

10.11.2023 – 12:00-18:00 Senatssaal, University of Kassel, Kassel, Germany

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Course Handout: <http://www.igorasanov.com/teaching.html>

Overview

Field experiments in economics allow us to estimate the impact of social programs or policies **in the naturally occurring environment** using random assignment to the treated and the control group. For instance, using this method, one can understand if helping people to escape poor districts helps them start a new life or if entrepreneurial education increases the start-up rate.

The goal of this course is to explain (1) why and when field experiments (randomized control trials) are useful and (2) how to provide field experiments.

During the lectures, you will learn:

- Why should one randomize to evaluate the impact of economic (social) programs?
- When to use field experiments (randomized control trials)?
- How do we randomize in the best way?
- How do you choose the right indicators and instruments to measure the outcomes of a program?
- How do we make a power analysis to determine the sample size needed for the study?
- How do we limit the threats that can undermine the reliability of the study?
- How do we provide statistical analysis of the data from randomized control trials?
- How do we draw policy conclusions from the field experiment?

During the seminars, we will work on Your research project. Course assignment:

- Think about a field experiment that You realistically can or plan to provide.
- Describe in class which question You try to answer, how you will randomize, outcomes, statistical power, statistical analysis, and policy implications.

Prerequisites: Basic Microeconomics; Basic Econometrics.

Preferred previous courses: Experimental or Behavioural Economics; Advanced Econometrics; Meta-analysis in Economics.

Course Structure

1. Introduction
2. Asking Right Questions
3. Randomizing
4. Outcomes
5. Power Analysis
6. Threats
7. Analysis
8. Policy

Detailed Schedule:

Day 1

Lecture 1: 06 Nov 2023 – 12:00-13:30

Lecture 2: 06 Nov 2023 - 14:30-16:00

Seminar 1: 06 Nov 2023 - 16:30 - 18:00

Day 2

Lecture 3 07 Nov 2023 – 12:00-13:30

Lecture 4: 07 Nov 2023 - 14:30-16:00

Seminar 2: 07 Nov 2023 - 16:30 - 18:00

Day 3

Seminar 3: 08 Nov 2023 – 12:00-13:30

Day 4

Lecture 5: 09 Nov 2023 – 12:00-13:30

Lecture 6: 09 Nov 2023 - 14:30-16:00

Seminar 4: 09 Nov 2023 - 16:30 - 18:00

Day 5

Lecture 7: 10 Nov 2023 – 12:00-13:30

Lecture 8: 10 Nov 2023 - 14:30-16:00

Seminar 6: 10 Nov 2023 - 16:30 - 18:00