

Survey experiments I

Instructor: Alexandra Jabbour

Organised by : Filip Kostelka & Valentina di Stasio

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Dates and schedule:

Monday 28 April @ Badia Fiesolana, Seminar Room 2, 9:30 – 17:00

Tuesday 29 April @ Badia Fiesolana, Seminar Room 2, 9:30 – 17:00

Credits: 10

Overview

Survey experiments are methodological tools used by social scientists to draw causal inferences. The workshop "Survey Experiments I", led by Alexandra Jabbour, is designed for researchers with limited to no understanding of experiments. During the two-day workshop, we will cover the principles of experimental design, an overview of different types of experiments and their pros and cons, and issues related to survey design and implementation (e.g., priming, non-response, attentiveness, randomization, etc.). By the end of the workshop, researchers will have gained a comprehensive understanding of the value of survey experiments and learned how to think experimentally. They will be able to follow the content prepared for the more advanced workshop, "Survey Experiments II," which will take place later in May 2025.

Requirements

Credit requirements include attendance, active participation, and group presentation.

Pre-course preparation: None.

Alexandra Jabbour is a Max Weber Fellow and part-time assistant professor at the EUI, affiliated with the department of political and social sciences. She conducts research at the intersection of political economy, political behavior and comparative politics. She obtained her PhD in political science from the University of Montreal in 2023.

Programme (indicative)

Monday, 28 April - DAY 1:

- 9:30–12:00
 - **Overview of the workshop**
 - **Potential outcomes framework of causality**
 - **What is an experiment?**
- 12:00–14:00
 - Lunch break
- 14:00–16:00 **Randomization**
 - **Complete, independent, and clustered randomization**

Tuesday, 29 April - DAY 2:

- 10:00–12:00 **Samples, quotas, and representativeness**
- 12:00–14:00
 - Lunch break
- 14:00–15:30 **Power analysis, sample sizes, and effect sizes**
 - Check out this excellent resource from Niklas Johannes. The website covers a two-day workshop on power analysis and will be very handy if you plan to conduct an experiment (field, lab, or survey): <https://niklasjohannes.github.io/power-workshop/>
- 15:30–16:00
 - Break
- 16:00–17:00 **Developing a pre-analysis plan**
 - **Prior to the workshop, check out this list from EGAP:** <https://egap.org/resource/10-things-to-know-about-pre-analysis-plans/>

Reading list (suggestions only):

For Day 1:

- Holland, P. W. 1986. "Statistics and Causal Inference." *Journal of the American Statistical Association* 81: 945-960.
- Druckman, J. N. 2022. *Experimental thinking*. Cambridge University Press. (available online through EUI digital library)
- Druckman, J. N., Green, D. P., Kuklinski, J. H., and Lupia, A. 2006. "The Growth and Development of Experimental Research in Political Science." *American Political Science Review* 100: 627-635.
- Gaines, B. J., Kuklinski, J. H., and Quirk, P. J. 2007. "The Logic of the Survey Experiment Reexamined." *Political Analysis* 15: 1-20.

For Day 2:

- Arel-Bundock, Vincent, et al. "Quantitative political science research is greatly underpowered." (2024). *Journal of Politics*. <https://www.journals.uchicago.edu/doi/10.1086/734279>
- On power analysis, if Niklas Johannes' workshop is not enough (or too long), you might look at this list maintained by Alexander Wuttke: <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1rXSaUFMLJqrMikHloBrxRfoN0eVWAHosQL7JAKUS7VQ/edit?tab=t.0>