

Seminar

Experimental Economics

Winter Term 2021/22

Prof. Rincke

Course Description

During the seminar, participants will discuss topics in experimental economics, with a special focus on recent field and online experiments. In the seminar, special attention will be paid to methodological issues, including sampling, randomization strategies, statistical power analysis, identification of average treatment effects, heterogeneity analyses, and channels. We will also discuss the transparency of experimental research in economics, including pre-registration of research designs and pre-analysis plans. The list of topics below provides more details, including references and brief comments on the research questions covered in the respective literature.

The seminar has two consecutive parts. **In the first part, students write a thesis (15 pages)** under the guidance of their advisor (**submission deadline: November 29th**). The thesis is supposed to elaborate on the main article(s) to be covered for the respective topic. Students are expected to search for additional literature and then work independently on their thesis. Advisors provide close guidance during this process. **The second part consists of a blocked seminar (December 16th and 17th) of students' presentations.** Before preparing their presentations, supervisors will provide students with detailed feedback on their thesis.

Organizational Details and Grading

- The seminar is organized by Prof. Rincke and Assistants.
- Students who want to participate should submit a participation form indicating their preferred topics (see webpage of Prof. Rincke's chair) to david.hardt@fau.de until **September 6, 2021**.
- Topics will be assigned to students immediately afterwards. Please note that the maximum number of participants is 8 students. After being assigned to a specific topic, students can repeal their participation within a week's time. After that deadline has passed, participation in the seminar is mandatory. Students not handing in a thesis in time will fail the seminar.
- Grading: The overall grade will reflect the quality of the thesis (50%), the presentation in the seminar (30%), and the student's contributions to the discussion following each of the presentations (20%). To pass the seminar, students must obtain a grade of at least 4.0 in each of the parts.

List of Topics

1. Field Experiments and the Practice of Economics

Q: Why do economists run randomized controlled trials?

Banerjee, A. V. (2020). Field Experiments and the Practice of Economics, *American Economic Review* 110(7), 1937–51.

2. Pre-registration of experimental research designs in economics

Q: What are the advantages and disadvantages of pre-registration of experimental research designs?

Abrams, E., Libgober, L., & List, J.A. (2020). Research Registries: Facts, Myths, and Possible Improvements, NBER Working Paper 27250.

Coffman, Lucas C.; Niederle, Muriel (2015). Pre-analysis Plans Have Limited Upside, Especially Where Replications Are Feasible, *Journal of Economic Perspectives* 29 (3), 81-98.

Olken, B.A. (2015). Promises and Perils of Pre-analysis Plans, *Journal of Economic Perspectives* 29 (3), 61-80.

3. Gender integration and gender attitudes

Q: How does integration of women in male-dominated domains affect males' gender attitudes?

Dahl, Gordon B.; Kotsadam, Andreas; Rooth, Dan-Olof (2021). Does Integration Change Gender Attitudes? The Effect of Randomly Assigning Women to Traditionally Male Teams, *Quarterly Journal of Economics* 136 (2), 987-1030.

4. Gender integration and gender attitudes: Assessing methods and research transparency

Q: How can the methods and the transparency of the research design of Dahl et al. (2021) be assessed, and what conclusions can be drawn?

Dahl, Gordon B.; Kotsadam, Andreas; Rooth, Dan-Olof (2021). Does Integration Change Gender Attitudes? The Effect of Randomly Assigning Women to Traditionally Male Teams, *Quarterly Journal of Economics* 136 (2), 987-1030.

5. International differences in social preferences

Q: Are there cross-country differences in preferences regarding efficiency and equity?

Almas, Ingvild; Cappelen, Alexander W.; Tungodden, Bertil (2020). Cutthroat Capitalism versus Cuddly Socialism: Are Americans More Meritocratic and Efficiency-Seeking than Scandinavians?, *Journal of Political Economy* 128 (5), 1753-88.

6. International differences in social preferences: Assessing methods and research transparency

Q: How can the methods and the transparency of the research design of Almas et al. (2020) be assessed, and what conclusions can be drawn?

Almas, Ingvild; Cappelen, Alexander W.; Tungodden, Bertil (2020). Cutthroat Capitalism versus Cuddly Socialism: Are Americans More Meritocratic and Efficiency-Seeking than Scandinavians?, *Journal of Political Economy* 128 (5), 1753-88.

7. Social media consumption and political polarization

Q: Does the use of social media increase political polarization?

Levy, B. (2021). Social Media, News Consumption, and Polarization: Evidence from a Field Experiment, *American Economic Review* 111 (3), 831–870.

8. Social media consumption and political polarization: Assessing methods and research transparency

Q: How can the methods and the transparency of the research design of Levy (2021) be assessed, and what conclusions can be drawn?

Levy, B. (2021). Social Media, News Consumption, and Polarization: Evidence from a Field Experiment, *American Economic Review* 111 (3), 831–870.