

Experimental Implications of Theoretical Models

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Experiment Section – June 19, 2015

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Module Objective:

This module develops the role and place of experiments in political science. Experiments are simply one of the tools available for use in the social sciences – they are not necessarily the only (or even first) tool to be used.

There are three goals for the module. First, we want to illustrate the connection between theory development and experimental design. Second, we want to stress key components of experimental design (simplify, simplify, simplify/control, control, control/randomize, randomize, randomize). Finally, we want to provide a sense of the kinds of problems facing various types of experiments (from randomized control treatments to field experiments).

To learn about experiments there is no substitute for doing. This means getting your hands dirty with conducting an experiment. Unfortunately there is not enough time to fully implement an experiment in this course. However, if there is any interest, we will take students through an experimental design “from scratch” during the afternoon. You may opt out of this optional session (though beer may be involved as an enticement).

READINGS

Posner, D. N. (2004). The political salience of cultural difference: Why Chewas and Tumbukas are allies in Zambia and adversaries in Malawi. *American Political Science Review*, 98(4), 529-545.

Kuklinski, J. H., Sniderman, P. M., Knight, K., Piazza, T., Tetlock, P. E., Lawrence, G. R., & Mellers, B. (1997). Racial prejudice and attitudes toward affirmative action. *American Journal of Political Science*, 402-419.

Imai, Kosuke, Luke Keele, Dustin Tingley, and Teppei Yamamoto. (2011). "Unpacking the Black Box of Causality: Learning About Causal Mechanisms from Experimental and Observational Studies." *American Political Science Review* 105, no. 4: 765-89.

Habyarimana, James, Macartan Humphreys, Daniel N. Posner, and Jeremy M. Weinstein. (2007). "Why Does Ethnic Diversity Undermine Public Goods Provision?" *American Political Science Review* 101 (4):709-25.

Broockman, David E. (2013). "Black Politicians Are More Intrinsically Motivated to Advance Blacks' Interests: A Field Experiment Manipulating Political Incentives" *American Journal of Political Science*. 57:3

Optional Readings

McDermott, R. (2002). "Experimental Methods in Political Science." *Annual Review of Political Science* 5: 31-61.

Dickson, Eric S. 2011. "Economics vs. Psychology Experiments." In *The Handbook of Experimental Political Science*, ed. J. N. Druckman, D. P. Green, J. H. Kuklinski and A. Lupia. Boston: Cambridge University Press.

Kam, Cindy D., Jennifer R. Wilking and Elizabeth J. Zechmeister. 2007. "Beyond the 'Narrow Data Base': Another Convenience Sample for Experimental Research." *Political Behavior* 29 (4): 415-440.

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Eckel, Catherine C., and Philip J. Grossman. 2001. "Chivalry and Solidarity in Ultimatum Games." *Economic Inquiry* 39 (2):171-88.

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Levine, David K., and Thomas R. Palfrey. (2007). "The Paradox of Voter Participation? A Laboratory Study." *American Political Science Review* 101 (1):143-58.