ABDUL LATIF JAMEEL Poverty Action Lab
J-PAL LATINOAMERICA
TRADUCIENDO LA INVESTIGACION EN ACCION

Evaluación de Programas Sociales

Course Syllabus

Bogotá, Colombia
12– 16 de julio del 2010

Universidad de los Andes

Day 1 **Monday, July 12th**

Activity	Topic	Group Work	Teaching point
Arrival and inscription 9:00 – 9:30			
Lecture 1 9:30-11:00	*1)* Why evaluate? What is evaluation? *(Dan Levy)* a) What do we hope to learn? b) Different levels of evaluation c) Understanding the program d) Impact evaluation e) Defining impact (preview)		• Why is evaluation necessary • Different levels of evaluation • Where randomized evaluation fits in • What levels are part of an impact evaluation • What an impact evaluation is
Case Study 1 11:15-1:00	Women as Policymakers: Thinking about measurement and outcomes	Case study discussion topics	• Measuring a program or policy • This case starts with a policy and thinks about its purpose • Although this should be reversed (purpose first, then policy), this is not always the case • Developing a logical framework
Lecture 2 2:00 – 3:30	*2)* Outcomes, indicators and measuring impact *(Juan Saavedra)* a) Outcomes and Indicators b) Logical Model c) Measuring Impact (preview)		• An understanding of program goals and strategy is best achieved through a structured, systematic process; not just for evaluator, but implementer! • how randomization is used in sampling; how it works mechanically (brief preview)
Group project 4:00 – 6:00	*Choose project* *Theory of change*	Deconstruct program into a logical framework, determine outcome measures	

Day 2 **Tuesday, July 13**

Activity	Topic	Group Work	Teaching point
Case Study 2 9:30-11:15	Learn to Read Evaluations: How to read and evaluate evaluations? Why Randomize?	Comparing different evaluations	o Learn to identify evaluation methods without being told the specific method o To explore the problem of causal inference, and the various ways of estimating the impact of a program using comparison group designs. o To introduce the concept of selection bias
Lecture 3 11:30 – 1:00	*3)* Impact evaluation – why randomize *(Dan Levy)* a) Defining impact b) Measuring impact c) Methods for measuring impact d) Bias		• different methods give different results, • what the other methods are and their short-comings • randomized evaluations are the most reliable
Lecture 4 2:30-4:00	*4)* How to randomize *(Francisco Gallego)* a) Unit and method of randomization b) Real-world constraints c) Revisiting unit and method d) Variations on simple treatment-control		• Introduce randomization designs as well as some of the mechanics of actually randomizing • With creativity, barriers can be overcome
Exercise 1 4:15 – 5:00	Mechanics of Randomization	Use excel to randomize	• Understand how to implement a stratified randomized sample
Case Study 3 5:00 – 6:00	Extra Teacher Program	Discussion topics	• Concrete example with multiple units of randomization, • Answering multiple research questions with one evaluation
Dinner for Course Professors, TAs and Staff (By invitation of *Escuela del Gobierno, Universidad de los Andes*) *[Time and Location To Be Determined]*			

Day 3 **Wednesday, July 14**

Activity	Topic	Group Work	Teaching point
Group project 9:00 – 9:45	Unit and method of randomization	Develop method of randomization in group project	
Exercise 2 9:45 – 11:00	Random Sampling and Law of Large Numbers		• Greater sample sizes more closely approximates the population distribution • that in any given sample, treatment and control can be unbalanced, but the more you sample, the more balanced you'll be
Lecture 5 **11:15-1:30** *(10-minute break in between)*	*5)* Sampling and sample size *(Francisco Gallego)* a) Intro to the scientific method b) Estimation c) Hypothesis testing d) Statistical significance e) Effect size f) Power g) Factors that influence power		• Understand why sample size is important • That sample size is typically THE largest constraint • the various determinants of sample size • Sample size is sample of *randomized* units, NOT measured units;
Lecture 6 2:30 – 4:00	*6)* Implementing an evaluation *(Ernesto Schargrodsky)* a) Data collection b) Attrition c) Compliance and contamination		• Give students the practical tools to implement an evaluation • Learn to design a data collection strategy under financial and other constraints • Learn how to collect quality data • Understand threats to the integrity of the experimental design
Group Exercise/ Project 4:15-6:00	Exercise 3: Sample size Sample size for your own project	Determining sample size (OD software and MS Excel®)	• Learn Sample size calculations in practice

Day 4 **Thursday, July 15**

Group Project 9:00-9:30	Sample size for your own project (continued)		
Case Study 4 9:30 – 11:00	Deworming in Kenya: Managing threats to experimental integrity Group Work		To explore how common threats to experimental integrity can be managed
Lecture 7 11:15 – 12:45	*7)* Analysis and inference *(Juan Saavedra)* a) Subgroup analysis b) Attrition, spillovers, crossovers c) ITT, Treatment on treated d) External validity		• Learn how to analyze and *interpret* data under various conditions
Lecture 8 2:00 – 3:30	8) Randomized Evaluation: Start-to-finish *(Claudia Martínez)*		• Give students a big picture overview of how many of the topics taught throughout the week fit into the timeline of an evaluation. • Planning for an Randomized Evaluation often needs to start *early*, not as an afterthought.
Group project 3:45 – 6:00		Finalize project	
Course Dinner 8:00 pm Hotel de la Opera *Calle 10 No. 5-72 La Candelaria*			

Day 5 – PRESENTATIONS **Friday, July 16**

Group Project 9:00-10:00	Finalize Group Project; Practice Presentations		
Presentations 10:00-1:00 (café a las 11:00)	Six groups will present (20 minute presentation + 10 minutes of comments)		
Presentations 2:30 – 3:30	The final two groups will present (20 minute presentation + 10 minutes of comments)		
Closing statement 3:30p	By Ryan Cooper, Executive Director, JPAL Latin America		