

# ECON 523: Program Evaluation for International Development

## Spring 2025 Reading List

### 1. Selection Bias and the Experimental Ideal

Angrist, Joshua and Jörn-Steffen Pischke. 2009. "Randomized Trials." In *Mostly Harmless Econometrics*.

Abdul Lateef Jameel Poverty Action Lab. 2012. "A Balancing Act: Subsidizing Drugs and Diagnostics for Malaria." *J-PAL Policy Briefcase*.

**Optional:** Gertler, Paul J., Sebastian Martinez, Patrick Premand, Laura Rawlings, and Christel Vermeersch. 2011. "Causal Inference and Counterfactuals." In *Impact Evaluation in Practice*, first edition.

**Optional:** Cohen, Jessica, Pascaline Dupas, and Simone Schaner. 2015. "Price Subsidies, Diagnostic Tests, and Targeting of Malaria Treatment: Evidence from a Randomized Controlled." *American Economic Review*, 105(2): 609-645.

### 2. Regression Revisited

Banerjee, Abhijit, et al. 2015. "A multifaceted program causes lasting progress for the very poor: Evidence from six countries." *Science*, 348(6236): 1260799.

### 3. 2x2 Difference-in-Difference Estimation

Gertler, Paul, et al. 2011. "Difference-in-Differences." In *Impact Evaluation in Practice*, first edition.

**Optional:** Kadar, Nicholas, Roberto Romero, and Zoltan Papp. 2018. "Ignaz Semmelweis: the 'Savior of Mothers.'" In *American Journal of Obstetrics and Gynecology*.

### 4. Difference-in-Differences in a Panel Data Framework

Godlonton, Susan, and Edward Okeke. 2016. "Does a ban on informal health providers save lives? Evidence from Malawi." *Journal of Development Economics*, 118: 112-132.

### 5. Two-Way Fixed Effects

Jakiela, Pamela. 2021. "Simple Diagnostics for Two-Way Fixed Effects." *Williams College Department of Economics Working Paper*.

**Optional:** Goodman-Bacon, Andrew. 2021. "Difference-in-differences with variation in treatment timing." *Journal of Econometrics*, 225: 254-277.

## 6. Treatment-on-the-Treated

Gertler, Paul, et al. 2016. “Instrumental Variables.” In *Impact Evaluation in Practice*, second edition.

Banerjee, Abhijit, Esther Duflo, Rachel Glennerster, and Cynthia Kinnan. 2015. “The Miracle of Microfinance? Evidence from a Randomized Evaluation.” *American Economic Journal: Applied Economics*, 7(1): 22-53.

## 7. Instrumental Variables

Jakiela, Pamela, and Owen Ozier. 2024. “The Impact of Preschool on Child Development: Evidence from Kenya,” *Journal of Development Economics*, 171: 103337.

## 8. Regression Discontinuity Designs

Gertler, Paul J., Sebastian Martinez, Patrick Premand, Laura Rawlings, and Christel Vermeersch. 2011. “Regression Discontinuity Design.” In *Impact Evaluation in Practice*, first edition.

Meyersson, Erik. 2014. “Islamic Rule and the Empowerment of the Poor and Pious.” *Econometrica*, 82(1): 229-269.

## 9. Random Assignment in Practice

Glennerster, Rachel, and Kudzai Takavarasha. 2013. “Randomizing.” In *Running Randomized Evaluations: A Practical Guide*.

## 10. Power Calculations

Glennerster, Rachel, and Kudzai Takavarasha. 2013. “Statistical Power.” In *Running Randomized Evaluations: A Practical Guide*. **Skip the sections on clustering.**

## 11. Clustering

Glennerster, Rachel, and Kudzai Takavarasha. 2013. “Statistical Power.” In *Running Randomized Evaluations: A Practical Guide*. **Now read the sections on clustering.**

## 12. Using Machine Learning to Select Covariates

Jakiela, Pamela, Owen Ozier, Lia C. H. Fernald, and Heather A. Knauer. 2020. “Evaluating the Effects of an Early Literacy Interventions.” Accepted based on pre-results review at *Journal of Development Economics*.

James, Gareth, Daniela Witten, Trevor Hastie, and Robert Tibshirani. 2021. “Linear Model Selection and Regularization.” In *An Introduction to Statistical Learning*, second edition.

Cilliers, Jacobus, Nour Elashmouwy, and David McKenzie. 2024. “Using Post-Double Selection Lasso in Field Experiments,” World Bank Policy Research Working Paper No. 10931.