

ECON 523: Impact Evaluation for International Development

Spring 2023 Reading List

1. Selection Bias and the Experimental Ideal

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

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.

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

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*.

For replication assignment: Card, David, and Alan Krueger. 1994. "Minimum Wages and Employment: A Case Study of the Fast Food Industry." *American Economic Review*, 84(4): 772-793.

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. 2023. "The Impact of Preschool on Child Development: Evidence from Kenya." Unpublished working paper. *Will be distributed in class*.

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.

Meyerson, 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

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

12. Machine Learning for Causal Inference

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.