

Research Methods in Experimental Economics

Lecturer: Prof. Adriaan R. Soetevent University of Groningen
<https://sites.google.com/site/adriaanrsoetevent/>

Date: October 07 and 08, 2013

Place: Licher Strasse 68, lecture room no. 27

Learning objectives

This short course will teach students how to apply laboratory and field experiments and how they compare to other research methodologies in economics. After the course, you will be aware of the pros and cons of experimental methods and have an idea what type of research questions can be properly addressed using this tool. We will discuss the critical details in the design and execution of (field) experiments and their internal and external validity. Attention will also be paid to the role of theory in experimental research.

Based on my own experiences, I will give examples of obstacles and dilemma's one typically encounters in conducting field and lab experiments and on how to avoid or solve them. In two small-group sessions, you will put your knowledge to work by discussing a number of case studies.

Registration

Please register in StudIP (<https://studip.uni-giessen.de/studip/>). Login with your JLU "g-Kennung" and your "Netzpasswort", search for the course title and complete the registration process. Alternatively, you may send an email to johannes.paha@wirtschaft.uni-giessen.de.

Monday, October 07

8:30	Arrival <i>Experiments in the Laboratory</i>
9:00-10:30	Lecture
11:00-12:30	Group assignment + feedback <i>Experiments in the Field</i>
14:00-16:00	Lecture
16:30-17:30	Group assignment + feedback

Tuesday, October 08

8:30	Arrival
9:00	Discussions of research papers This mainly refers to research conducted by members of the peer mentoring group “Wissenschaftsmentoring JLU Gießen” but can be opened to research conducted by other course participants on request.

Reading list Monday October 7:

(starred * papers: please read before start of the lectures)

Laboratory experiments

Falk, A. and N. Szech (2013): Morals and markets, *Science*, **340**(707), 707-711*

Hinlopen and Soetevent (2008): Laboratory evidence on the effectiveness of corporate leniency programs, *RAND Journal of Economics*, **39**(2), 607-616.*

Loewenstein, G. (1999): Experimental Economics from the Vantage-Point of Behavioural Economics, *Economic Journal*, **109**(February), F25-F34.

Samuelson, Larry (2005), Economic Theory and Experimental Economics, *J. Economic Literature*, XLIII(1), p. 65-107.*

Field Experiments

Card, D., S. DellaVigna and U. Malmendier (2011): The Role of Theory in Field Experiments, *J. Economic Perspectives*, **25**(3), 39-62.*

Harrison, Glenn W. and John A. List (2004), Field Experiments, *J. Economic Literature*, XLII(4), p. 1009-1055.

List, J. A. (2006): Field Experiments: A bridge between Lab and naturally occurring data, *Advances in Economic Analysis & Policy*, **6**(2), Article 8, BE Press.*

List, J. A., (2011): Why Economists Should Conduct Field Experiments and 14 Tips for Pulling One Off, *J. Economic Perspectives*, **25**(3), Summer, 3-16.

Kuhn, P., P. Kooreman, A. R. Soetevent and A. Kapteyn (2011): The Effects of Lottery Prizes on Winners and their Neighbors: Evidence from the Dutch Postcode Lottery, *American Economic Review*, **101**(5), 2226-2247.*

Onderstal, A. M., A. J. H. C. Schram and A. R. Soetevent (2013): Bidding to Give in the Field, *Journal of Public Economics*, **104**, 72-85.

Soetevent, A. R. (2005): Anonymity in Giving in a Natural Context – A Field Experiment in 30 Churches, *Journal of Public Economics*, **89**(11-12), December, 2301-2323.*