Field Experiments in Economics Lecturer: John A. List, University of Chicago

Course Description the course presents lectures on how to use field experiments in economics and summarizes recent research. It will consist of three lectures over three days.

Reading List

Introduction to Field Experiments in Economics, Randomization, and Simple Rules of Thumb for Design

Harrison, Glenn W. and John A. List, "Field Experiments," Journal of Economic Literature, (2004), 42(4), pp. 1009-1055.

List, John A. "Why Economists Should Conduct Field Experiments and 14 Tips for Pulling One Off," Journal of Economic Perspectives, (2011), 25(3): pp. 3-15.

Levitt, Steven D. and John A. List, "Field Experiments in Economics: The Past, The Present, and The Future," European Economic Review, (2009), 53(1), pp. 1-18.

Al-Ubaydli, Omar, and John A. List, "On the generalizability of experimental results in economics", 2012 NBER working paper.

List, John A., Sally Sadoff, and Mathis Wagner, "So you want to run an experiment, now what? Some Simple Rules of Thumb for Optimal Experimental Design," Experimental Economics, (2011), 14(4), pp. 439-457.

List, John A., "Homo experimentalis Evolves," Science, (2008), 321(5886), pp. 207-208.

List, John A. "Field Experiments: A Bridge between Lab and Naturally Occurring Data," The B.E. Journal of Economic Analysis & Policy, (2006), 6(2 - Advances), Article 8.

Field experiments in education

Roland G. Fryer, Jr, Steven D. Levitt, John A. List, Sally Sadoff, "Enhancing the Efficacy of Teacher Incentives through Loss Aversion: A Field Experiment," NBER w18237.

Steven D. Levitt, John A. List, Susanne Neckermann, Sally Sadoff "The Behavioralist Goes to School: Leveraging Behavioral Economics to Improve Educational Performance," NBER w18165.

On why men are paid more than women?

Jeffrey A. Flory, Andreas Leibbrandt, John A. List, "Do Competitive Work Places Deter Female Workers? A Large-Scale Natural Field Experiment on Gender Differences in Job-Entry Decisions," NBER w16546.

Gneezy, Uri, Kenneth Leonard, and John A. List, "Gender Differences in Competition: Evidence from a Matrilineal and a Patriarchal Society," Econometrica, (2009), 77(5), pp. 1637-1664.

On Using Field Experiments in Firms

Hossain, Tanjim and John A. List, "The Behavioralist Visits the Factory: Increasing Productivity Using Simple Framing Manipulations," Management Science, (2012), forthcoming.

Levitt, Steven D. and John A. List, "Was there really a Hawthorne Effect at the Hawthorne Plant? An Analysis of the Original Illumination Experiments," American Economic Journal: Applied Economics (2011), 3(1): pp. 224-238.

On Why do People Give to Charitable Causes?

List, John A. and Michael K. Price, "Charitable Giving Around the World: Thoughts on How to Expand the Pie," CESIfo Economic Studies, (2012), 58(1), pp. 1-30.

List, John A. "The Market for Charitable Giving," Journal of Economic Perspectives, (2011), 25(2): pp. 157-180.

Karlan, Dean and John A. List, "Does Price Matter in Charitable Giving? Evidence from a Large-Scale Natural Field Experiment," American Economic Review, (2007), 97(5), pp. 1774-1793.

List, John A. and David Lucking-Reiley "The Effects of Seed Money and Refunds on Charitable Giving: Experimental Evidence from a University Capital Campaign." Journal of Political Economy, February 2002, 110(8), pp. 215-233.

Using Field Experiments to Understand the Economics of Crime

Work in progress is to be presented.

On Discrimination

List, John A., "The Nature and Extent of Discrimination in the Marketplace: Evidence from the Field," Quarterly Journal of Economics, (2004), 119(1), pp. 49-89.

Uri Gneezy, John A. List, Michael K. Price, "Toward an Understanding of Why People Discriminate: Evidence from a Series of Natural Field Experiments," NBER w17855.

On Adding Structure to Field Experiments

Della Vigna, Stefano, John A. List, and Ulrike Malmendier, "Testing for Altruism and Social Pressure in Charitable Giving," Quarterly Journal of Economics, (2012), 127(1), pp. 1-56.

Herberich, David, John A. List, and Michael Price, "How Many Economists does it take to Change a Lightbulb,' working paper.