

ADVANCED RESEARCH DESIGN & DATA COLLECTION

ALLIEVI HONORS PROGRAMME

ACADEMIC YEAR 2021/22

Coordinated by Krzysztof Krakowski

Instructors

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Course Outline

This course is meant for **second year Allievi students**. The course has two principal aims. The first aim of the course is to teach a series of *designs suitable for identifying causal relations* rather than correlations. The second aim of the course is to teach a series of techniques of *data collection*. The readings offer many applications of these techniques aimed at spurring students' imagination.

The reference texts for the course are:

- Firebaugh, G. (2007), *Seven Rules for Social Research*, Princeton: Princeton University Press.
- Dunning, T. (2012), *Natural experiments in the social sciences. A design-based approach*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Schlotter, M., Schwerdt, G., & Woessmann, L. (2011). Econometric methods for causal evaluation of education policies and practices: a non-technical guide. *Education Economics*, 19(2), 109-137.

Schedule

The course takes place on Mondays from 16:30 to 19:30, in Classroom 2 in the Collegio Carlo Alberto, and will run from Monday 27 September to Monday 6 December. The full list of the course sessions is the following:

Classes and topics:

- Week 0: Practical arrangements [24 Sept (Friday, 16:30-17:00), Krzysztof Krakowski]
- Week 1: Brief history of cause-seeking designs & problems of causal identification [27 Sept, Aron Szekely]
- Week 2: Laboratory experiments [4 Oct, Aron Szekely]
- Week 3: Survey experiments [11 Oct, Davide Morisi]
- Week 4: Field experiments [18 Oct, Camilla Borgna]
- Week 5: Natural and quasi experiments [25 Oct, Krzysztof Krakowski]
- Week 6: Designing surveys [8 Nov, Davide Morisi + guest speaker]
- Week 7: Unconventional data collection I: Social media, text analysis, web scraping [15 Nov, Moreno Mancosu]
- Week 8: Unconventional data collection II: GIS and archival data [22 Nov, Krzysztof Krakowski]
- Week 9: The role of theory in ethnography [29 Nov, Effrosyni Charitopoulou]
- Week 10: Mixed methods and implication analysis [6 Dec, Diego Gambetta]

Requirements

In order to successfully complete the course, in addition to attending regularly, students are required:

- 1) from Week 2 onward, to prepare **brief comments** (1-2 pages long) on at least one of the mandatory readings for each session. These comments should contain participants' suggestions for further applications of the technique presented in each week's readings to different research questions. The students are encouraged to try to develop ideas on how a particular technique might help them in their own research. These comments should be submitted electronically to federica.gai@carloalberto.org by the Sunday preceding the class. The comments will be discussed in class.
- 2) to give two **class presentations** of empirical studies that apply the technique presented in each week's readings. The syllabus includes a list of applied studies the participants can choose from for each week's presentations. During Week 0, the students will be assigned presentations according to their preferences (within constraints).