Field Review: Research Transparency

Sergio Puerto

June 12, 2025

INTRODUCTION

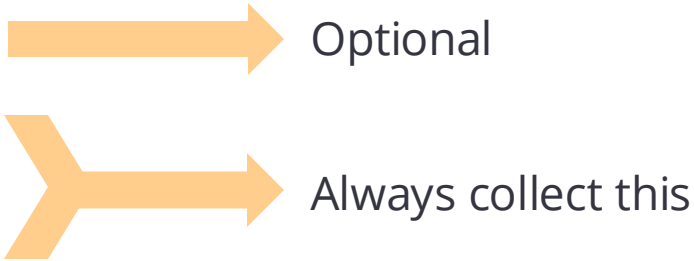
The research transparency fields cover resources provided by the authors

This helps users of the library understand the ethical decisions made by the authors in their research.

Agenda

Resources

1. Type of resource
2. Pre-registrations
3. IRB



1 Resources

1. Type of Resource

- **Definition:** The type of resource being shared
    - Links to additional resources that are listed in main text or supplementary materials of a paper
        - Do not search beyond these two materials that are provided to you
        - Many papers will not share links to additional resources
    - Be sure to **check footnotes** for links!

1. Type of Resource

- In the survey, after entering each additional link you find, you will be prompted to identify what type of resource it is:
    - Replication
    - Additional documents: Questionnaire, Technical documents
    - Pre-analysis plans
    - Populated pre-analysis plans
    - Research ethics documentation
    - Other (describe)
        - E.g., A document that describes how outcome variables were constructed using survey information.

Resource: Replication package

Example: Badrinathan (2021)

- Link appears as data availability statement (American Political Science Review)

DATA AVAILABILITY STATEMENT

Research documentation and data that support the findings of this study are openly available at the APSR Dataverse: https://doi.org/10.7910/DVN/ITKNX5.

Resource: Replication package

Example: Garbiras-Diaz and Montenegro (2022)

- Link appears as a citation in the PDF (American Economic Review)

Garbiras-Díaz, Natalia, and Mateo Montenegro. 2022a. "Replication Data for: All Eyes on Them: A Field Experiment on Citizen Oversight and Electoral Integrity." American Economic Association [publisher], Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research [distributor]. https://doi.org/10.3886/E160921V1.

Resource: Document

- **Questionnaire:** set of questions used in the field
- **Technical:** methodological documents related to survey design, interviewer manuals, field protocols, data entry manuals, etc.

Resource: Document / Questionnaire

Example: Young (2019) has a link to the full survey instrument in the supplementary materials

A Measurement

The variables used to measure each outcome and control variable are described in Table A.1. The survey instrument used in the study is available at `http://www.laurenelyssayoung.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/09/Final-Questionnaire.pdf`.

Resource: Document / Technical documentation

Examples:

- Survey design
- Interviewer, supervisor, or data entry manuals
- Editing specifications
- Tabulation and analysis plans

→

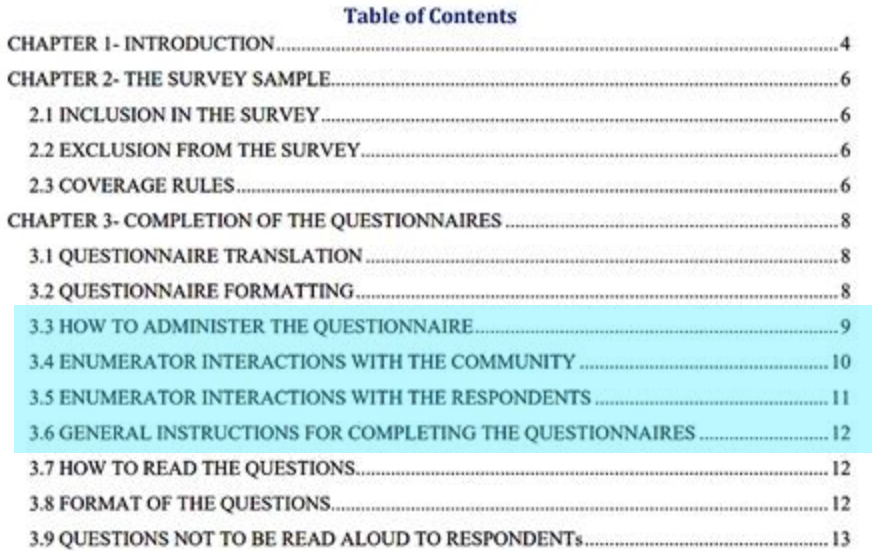


Table of Contents

Resource: Pre-analysis Plan

- Document describing how the data coming from the experiment is going to be processed and analyzed

- Only report if this is ***separate*** from pre-registration

  Note: We have separate field that will ask for registry data. For papers on the AEA Registry, check if they separately mention a pre-analysis plan

Resource: Pre-analysis Plan

Example: Barcelo and Baron (2024) include a link to their pre-analysis plan and describe its deviations in their appendix:

Q Pre-specified analysis and deviations from the PAP

In our pre-analysis plan, we registered three main hypotheses. The first two hypotheses refer to the two main effects that are reported in the paper:

1. Elected officials are more (less) likely to be responsive to citizens who have been victims of the civil conflict
2. Elected officials are more (less) likely to be responsive to displaced citizens who have been victims of the civil conflict

In empirical terms, these hypotheses were implicitly laid out as:

$$Y_i = \alpha + \beta_1 * Victim_i + \epsilon_i; \quad (1)$$

where Y_i is the outcome of interest, $Victim_i$ refers to the dummy indicating an email request from a putative conflict victim, X_i refers to the other attributes in the email, and Z_i to a full list of control variables.

Resource: Populated Pre-analysis Plan

- A document reporting the **exact analyses** that are specified in the pre-analysis plan.
- Not very common
- **Example**: Yang et al. (2023)

POPULATED PRE-ANALYSIS PLAN

for

Direct and Spillover Impacts of a Community-Level HIV/AIDS Program: Evidence from a Randomized Controlled Trial in Mozambique

Dean Yang[1,2,3], James Allen IV[1,2], Arlete Mahumane[4], James Riddell IV[5], and Hang Yu[6,7]

[1]Department of Economics, University of Michigan.
[2]Ford School of Public Policy, University of Michigan.
[3]Population Studies Center, University of Michigan.
[4]Beira Operational Research Center, National Institute of Health, Mozambique.
[5]Division of Infectious Diseases, University of Michigan Medical School.
[6]National School of Development, Peking University.
[7]Institute of South-South Cooperation and Development, Peking University

February 17, 2021

Resource: Research ethics documentation

- Any documentation related to research ethics, such as ethics review protocols
- **Note:** we have a separate question for IRB registration numbers
- It may include documentation related to IRB (inform consent, human research protocol, etc.)

Resource: Research ethics documentation

Example: Cheema et al. 2023 include a link to an ethics appendix

A.6 Ethical Considerations

Participant Information and Consent

Below is the translated information script used to obtain oral consent from study participants during data collection activities:

Hello, my name is []. I am here on behalf of researchers from [institution] and would like to invite you to participate in a survey. The reason why we are conducting this survey is to find out what people think about different political issues, what their service delivery priorities are and how decisions are made in their households. Your household has been selected through a randomization procedure. We would like to survey one male and one female member in each house. Only those males and females who are above the age of 18 and have CNIC's are eligible to participate in this survey

You are free to choose whether or not to participate in this survey. If you do choose to participate, I will require half an hour of your time. During the survey you can refuse to answer any questions that you do not wish answer, or ask me to end the interview at any point.

2 Pre-Registration

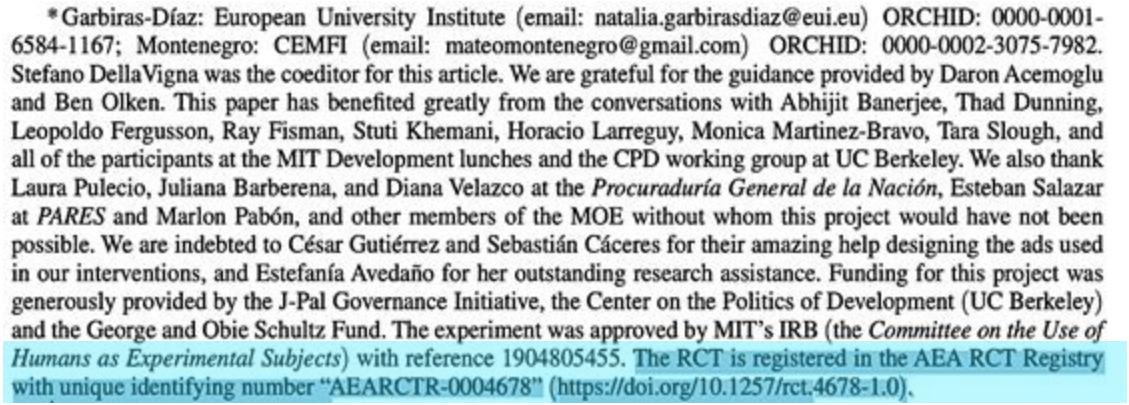
2.1 Registry Name

- **Identifies pre-registration information**
- **Definition:** Registry name (where the trial is registered)
- **CV:**
  - AEA Registry
  - ClinicalTrials.gov
  - Registry for International Development Impact Evaluations
  - Open Science Framework
  - Other
  - Not stated

2.2 Registration ID

Definition: Registration ID (unique identifier issued by the organization where the trial is registered)

- Often located in the acknowledgements section or footnotes
- Usually found next to registry name

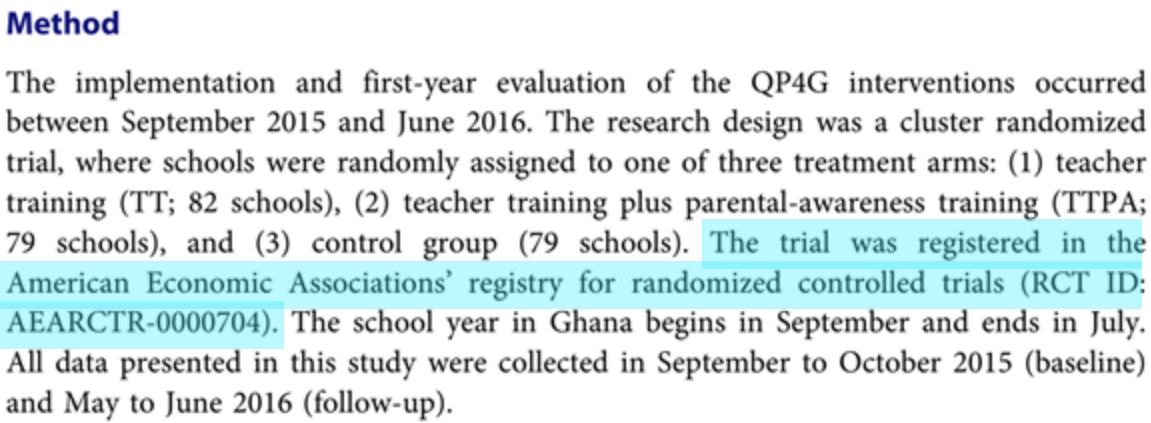


*Garbiras-Díaz: European University Institute (email: natalia.garbirasdiaz@eui.eu) ORCHID: 0000-0001-6584-1167; Montenegro: CEMFI (email: mateomontenegro@gmail.com) ORCHID: 0000-0002-3075-7982. Stefano DellaVigna was the coeditor for this article. We are grateful for the guidance provided by Daron Acemoglu and Ben Olken. This paper has benefited greatly from the conversations with Abhijit Banerjee, Thad Dunning, Leopoldo Fergusson, Ray Fisman, Stuti Khemani, Horacio Larreguy, Monica Martinez-Bravo, Tara Slough, and all of the participants at the MIT Development lunches and the CPD working group at UC Berkeley. We also thank Laura Pulecio, Juliana Barberena, and Diana Velazco at the *Procuraduría General de la Nación*, Esteban Salazar at *PARES* and Marlon Pabón, and other members of the MOE without whom this project would have not been possible. We are indebted to César Gutiérrez and Sebastián Cáceres for their amazing help designing the ads used in our interventions, and Estefanía Avedaño for her outstanding research assistance. Funding for this project was generously provided by the J-Pal Governance Initiative, the Center on the Politics of Development (UC Berkeley) and the George and Obie Schultz Fund. The experiment was approved by MIT's IRB (the *Committee on the Use of Humans as Experimental Subjects*) with reference 1904805455. The RCT is registered in the AEA RCT Registry with unique identifying number "AEARCTR-0004678" (https://doi.org/10.1257/rct.4678-1.0).

2.2 Registration ID

Definition: Registration ID (unique identifier issued by the organization where the trial is registered)

- However, it may also appear within the main text:



Method

The implementation and first-year evaluation of the QP4G interventions occurred between September 2015 and June 2016. The research design was a cluster randomized trial, where schools were randomly assigned to one of three treatment arms: (1) teacher training (TT; 82 schools), (2) teacher training plus parental-awareness training (TTPA; 79 schools), and (3) control group (79 schools). The trial was registered in the American Economic Associations' registry for randomized controlled trials (RCT ID: AEARCTR-0000704). The school year in Ghana begins in September and ends in July. All data presented in this study were collected in September to October 2015 (baseline) and May to June 2016 (follow-up).

3 IRB Approval

3.1 Number of IRBs Reported

- **Definition:** the total number of ethics reviews reported in the paper
  - Papers can have multiple IRB approvals

3.2 Review Board Name

- **Definition:** The name or hosting institution of the ethics review body
  - Include the complete name
  - Most, if not all, papers that report IRB approval will include the institution

IRB information

- Sometimes this information will be elsewhere in the paper, such as in the introduction.
- The IRB number or case may not always be reported, as below:

In this study, the effect of the parenting education program was assessed using data collected at two different time points (pretest and posttest). Parents were assessed just before the first session of the program for the pretest (August 2015) and 5 months after the end of the active implementation of the program for the posttest (September 2016). As designed in a similar intervention in the neighboring Uganda (Singla, Kumbakumba, & Aboud, 2015), data collectors were blinded to the intervention and study design; they were trained on research ethics, data collection instruments, and research procedures. This study was reviewed and approved by the Rwanda National Ethics Committee.

- Sometimes it is also located in the acknowledgements section or footnotes:

We are grateful to Eric Arias, Kate Baldwin, Chris Blattman, Dan Butler, Eric Dickson, Pat Egan, Ryan Enos, Don Green, Macartan Humphreys, John Jost, Rebecca Littman, Noam Lupu, Gwyneth McClendon, Jack Snyder, Jonathan Weigel, Rebecca Weitz-Shapiro, and participants in the Contemporary African Political Economy Research Seminar (CAPERS), the NYU Center for Experimental Social Science, and above all to Bernd Beber, for their feedback, advice, and support. Oluwatosin Akinola and Caleb Yanet provided superb leadership in the field. Special thanks go to our dear friend Abel Adejor and to Kyauta Giwa of Community Action for Popular Participation (CAPP), and Chima Nnaedozie and microManna Ltd, our implementing partners. We thank the editor and four anonymous reviewers for helpful comments. The United States Institute of Peace (USIP) and the New York University Research Challenge Fund (URCF) provided funding for this study. This research was approved via NYU IRB Protocol 14-9985. Our pre-analysis plan is available via the Evidence in Governance and Politics (EGAP) Registry, ID 20150617AA. All errors and omissions are our own. Replication files are available on the American Political Science Review Dataverse: https://doi.org/10.7910/DVN/X8ZRVO.

Thank you for listening

Sergio Puerto
sergiopuerto@berkeley.edu