BGSE Development Summer School 2019: Randomized Trials Syllabus Pamela Jakiela and Owen Ozier

1) The Randomization Revolution in Development Economics (DAY 1)

Recommended readings:

Gerber and Green (2012): Field Experiments, chapters 1 and 2

Fisher (1935): Design of Experiments, chapter II

Related readings:

Glennerster and Takavarasha (2013): Running Randomized Evaluations, chapters 1 to 3

Jamison (2019): "The Entry of Randomized Assignment into the Social Sciences," *Journal of Causal Inference*, 7(1).

2) Research Design for Randomistas (DAY 2)

Recommended readings:

Bruhn and McKenzie (2009): "In Pursuit of Balance: Randomization in Practice in Development Field Experiments," *American Economic Journal: Applied Economics*, 1(4): 200–232

Duflo, Glennerster, and Kremer (2007): "Using Randomization in Development Economics Research: A Toolkit," *Handbook of Development Economics*, Volume 4, 2007, Chapter 61, pages 3895–3962 (available from Elsevier or MIT/CEPR)

McKenzie (2012): "Beyond baseline and follow-up: The case for more T in experiments," *Journal of Development Economics*, 99(2): 210–221

Related readings:

Gerber and Green (2012): Field Experiments, chapters 3 and 4

Glennerster and Takavarasha (2013): Running Randomized Evaluations, chapter 4 to 7

3) Analyzing Data from Randomized Experiments (Day 3)

Recommended readings:

Anderson (2008): "Multiple Inference and Gender Differences in the Effects of Early Intervention: A Reevaluation of the Abecedarian, Perry Preschool, and Early Training Projects," *Journal of the American Statistical Association*, 103(484): 1481-1495.

Lee (2009): "Training, Wages, and Sample Selection: Estimating Sharp Bounds on Treatment Effects," *Review of Economic Studies*, 76(3): 1071-1102.

Related readings:

Glennerster and Takavarasha (2013): Running Randomized Evaluations, chapter 8

Leaver, Ozier, Serneels, and Zeitlin (2019): "Recruitment, Effort, and Retention Effects of Performance Contracts for Civil Servants: Experimental Evidence from Rwandan Primary Schools," working paper.

Young (2019): "Channeling Fisher: Randomization Tests and the Statistical Insignificance of Seemingly Significant Experimental Results," *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, 134(2): 557–598.

4) Replication and Pre-Analysis Plans (Day 4)

Ozier (2019): "Replication Redux: The Reproducibility Crisis and the Case of Deworming," Policy Research working paper; no. WPS 8835. Washington, D.C.: World Bank Group. Forthcoming, *World Bank Research Observer*

Leaver, Ozier, Serneels, and Zeitlin (2018): "Power to the Plan" Development Impact Blog. Available Online: <u>https://blogs.worldbank.org/impactevaluations/power-plan-guest-post-clare-leaver-owen-ozier-pieter-serneels-and-andrew-zeitlin</u>

Related readings:

Brodeur, Lé, Sangnier, and Zylberberg (2016): "Star Wars: The Empirics Strike Back," *American Economic Journal: Applied Economics*, 8(1): 1-32

Christensen and Miguel (2018): "Transparency, Reproducibility, and the Credibility of Economics Research," *Journal of Economic Literature*, 56(3): 920-980

Coffman and Niederle (2015): "Pre-analysis Plans Have Limited Upside, Especially Where Replications Are Feasible," *Journal of Economic Perspectives*, 29(3): 81-98

Olken (2015): "Promises and Perils of Pre-Analysis Plans," *Journal of Economic Perspectives*, 29(3): 61-80

5) What Have We Learned (and What Haven't We Learned) from RCTs?

5a) Case study 1: Microfinance

Banerjee, Karlan, and Zinman (2015): "Six Randomized Evaluations of Microcredit: Introduction and Further Steps," *American Economic Journal: Applied Economics* 7(1): 1-21.

Banerjee, Duflo, Glennerster and Kinnan (2015): "The Miracle of Microfinance? Evidence from a Randomized Evaluation," *American Economic Journal: Applied Economics*, 7(1): 22-53

Breza and Kinnan (2018): "Measuring the Equilibrium Impacts of Credit: Evidence from the Indian Microfinance Crisis," *NBER Working Paper No. 24329*

Meager (2019): "Understanding the Average Impact of Microcredit Expansions: A Bayesian Hierarchical Analysis of Seven Randomized Experiments," *American Economic Journal: Applied Economics*, forthcoming

Pitt and Khandker (1998): "The impact of group-based credit programs on poor households in Bangladesh: Does the gender of participants matter?" *Journal of Political Economy*, 106(5): 958-996

5b) Case study 2: Education – and secondary school in particular

Evans and Popova (2016): "What Really Works to Improve Learning in Developing Countries? An Analysis of Divergent Findings in Systematic Reviews," *World Bank Research Observer*, 31(2): 242–270

Related readings:

Brudevold-Newman (2018): "The Impacts of Free Secondary Education: Evidence from Kenya," working paper

Duflo, Dupas, and Kremer (2017): "The Impact of Free Secondary Education: Experimental Evidence from Ghana," working paper

Lucas and Mbiti (2012): "Access, Sorting, and Achievement: The Short-Run Effects of Free Primary Education in Kenya," *American Economic Journal: Applied Economics*, 4(4): 226-253.

Mbiti, Muralidharan, Romero, Schipper, Manda, and Rajani, forthcoming: "Inputs, Incentives, and Complementarities in Education: Experimental Evidence from Tanzania," *Quarterly Journal of Economics*

Muralidharan, Singh, and Ganimian (2019): "Disrupting Education? Experimental Evidence on Technology-Aided Instruction in India." *American Economic Review*, 109(4): 1426-60

Ozier (2018): "The Impact of Secondary Schooling in Kenya: a Regression Discontinuity Analysis," *Journal of Human Resources*, 53 (1): 157-188