

# Social Interaction in International Schools

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# Research Question

Does providing information about limited social interactions between international students and its consequences lead to more willingness to intermingle?

# Related literature

Self-Segregators	Exclusive Global Mixers		Inclusive Global Mixers	Host Interactors
27%	38%		28%	7%
Socially interact only with conationals, excluding other internationals and host nationals	Socially interact only with conationals and other internationals, excluding host nationals		Socially interact with a mix of conationals, other internationals, and host nationals	Socially interact with host nationals and some conationals, excluding other internationals
	<b>Ethnic Global Mixers</b>	<b>International Global Mixers</b>		
	Socially interact with conationals and ethnically similar internationals, excluding other internationals and host nationals	Socially interact with conationals and a range of other internationals, excluding host nationals		

Self-Segregation or Global Mixing?:  
Social Interactions and the  
International Student  
Experience (2013)

Published by John Hopkins  
University Press

# Related literature

An analysis of friendship networks, social connectedness, homesickness, and satisfaction levels of international students (2010)

Hendrickson et al.

## An analysis of friendship networks, social connectedness, homesickness, and satisfaction levels of international students

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### ABSTRACT

International students continue to grow in number worldwide, prompting researchers to look for ways to make the study abroad experience more fruitful. One avenue of research has focused on friendship formation, the significant role it plays in the study abroad experience, and the unique friendship combinations made possible by the study abroad experience. International students form friendships with individuals from their own country, from other countries, and from the host country. Research has found that international students often have more friends from their home country; however, research has also demonstrated a relationship between having more host country friends and satisfaction, contentment, decreased homesickness, and social connectedness. The current study looks to further explore these relationships through a social network lens by examining friendship network ratios, strength, and variability of the three friendship groups. A friendship network grid was developed to assess where international students' friends are from and how strong those friendships are. Eighty four international students completed a survey examining the relationship between friendship networks, social connectedness, homesickness, contentment, and satisfaction. Contrary to prior research, international students did not report having a higher ratio of individuals from their home country in their friendship networks. However, international students with a higher ratio of individuals from the host country in their network claimed to be more satisfied, content, and less homesick. Furthermore, participants who reported more friendship variability with host country individuals described themselves as more satisfied, content, and more socially connected. Implications and directions for future research are discussed.

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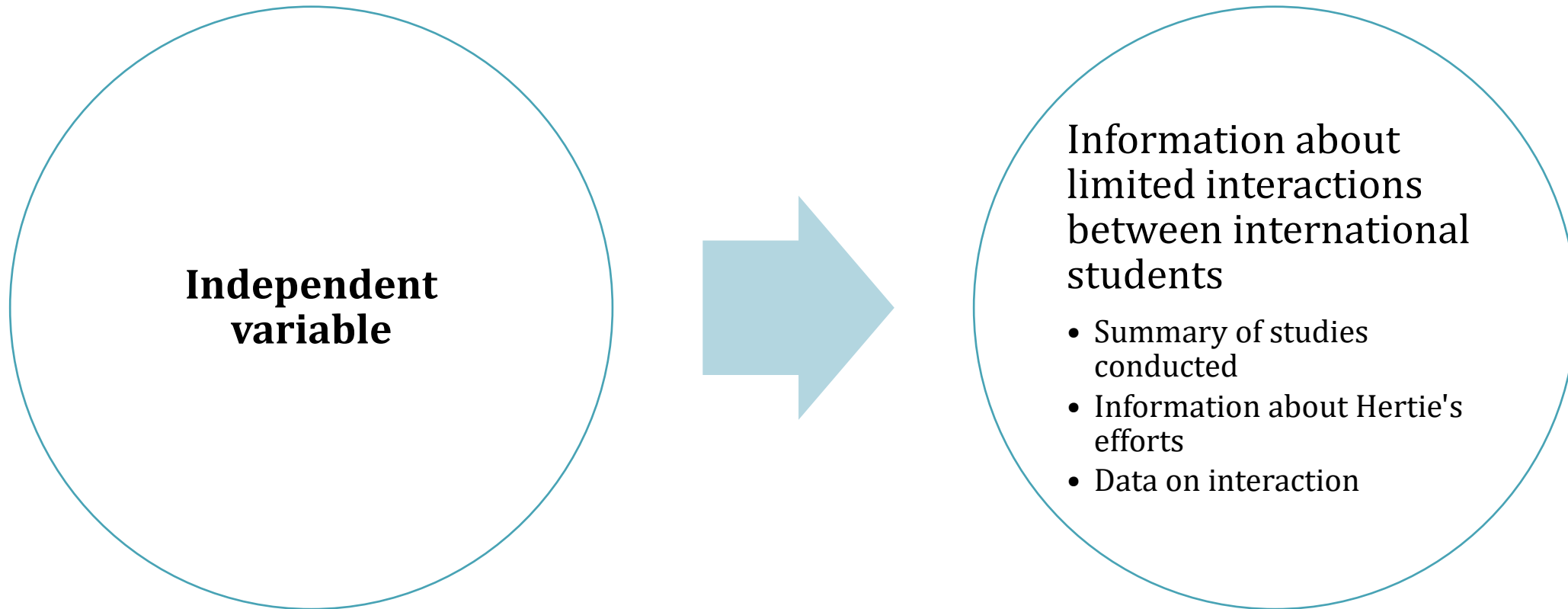
## Hypothesis

Having information about limited interaction and its consequences will make students more likely (willing) to reach out to people from another countries and ethnicities.

## External Validity

If information provision leads to increased willingness, and thereby, more intercultural communication, this can be applied in other international settings as well.

# Treatment



# Outcome

Dependent variable:

**Willingness to interact with international students (Students from countries and ethnicities other than your own).**

**Willingness index with framed interaction situations:**

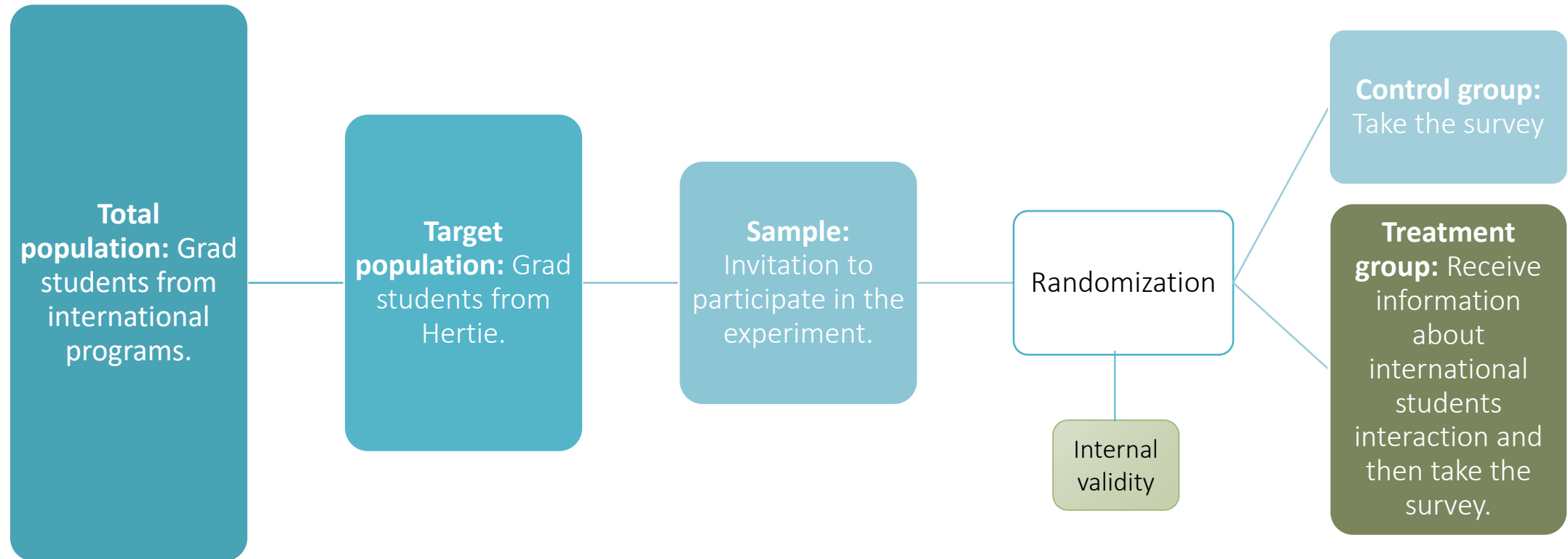
e. g.- You are hosting a dinner, how probable is that you invite people from other than your home country/ethnicity.



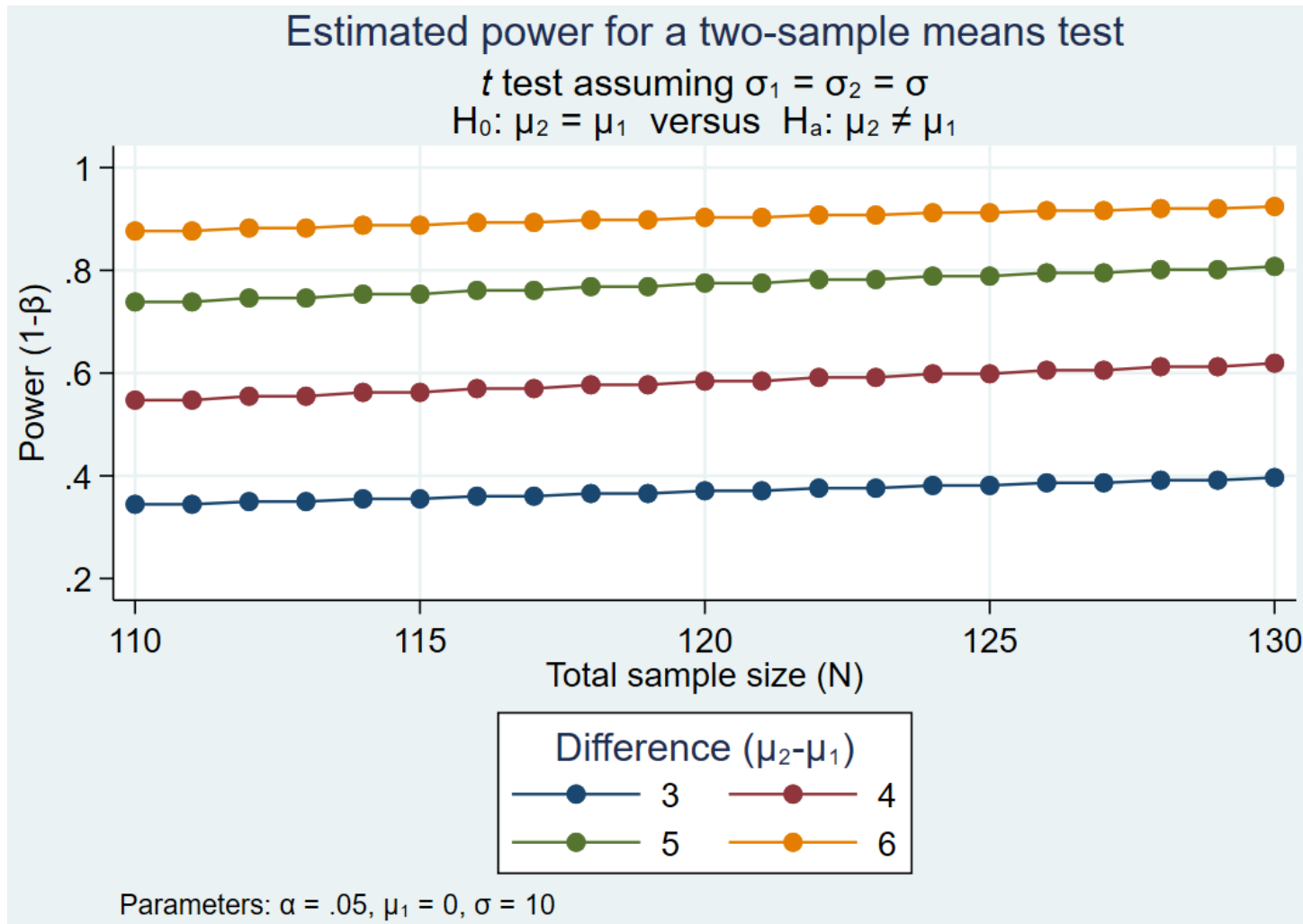
e. g.- You need to form an assignment group, how probable is that you make it with people other than your home country/ethnicity.



# Method







# Power calculation

Significance level:  $\alpha = 0.05$   
 (95% confidence).

Probable sample size between  
 110 and 130.

Minimum detectable effect  
 (MDE) between 3 to 6%.

# Possible Control Variables

1. Gender
2. Age
3. Nationality
4. Socioeconomic status
5. Study course (MPP, MIA, MDS, ...)
6. Year of study
7. International exposure (as in study/work abroad)
8. Years of work experience
9. Existing established groups/friendships
10. Personal characteristics (extrovert/introvert)
11. Living situation (living alone or in shared apartments)
12. Language proficiency (Depends on the host country)
13. Stress level?
14. Family background (if a 1st generation student)?
15. Universities' factors (only if doing outside Hertie as well)

# Risks to consider

- ❑ **Hawthorne effect:** some may respond "more probable" since they are being "studied".
- ❑ **Experimenter Demand effect:** changes in behaviour by experimental subjects due to cues about what constitutes appropriate behaviour.
- ❑ **Spillover:** some may share information with control group participants.

# Our Concerns

- **Information to provide:** Just limited interaction data or limited interaction data + benefits of intercultural interaction.
- **Sample:** Within Hertie or also to include other international universities, if yes, then what can be the Universities' factors to control for?
- **GDPR implication (?)**
- **What all controls to include?**

## Suggestions are welcome!