MY457: Week 2 Seminar Guiding Questions

2025-01-29

Paper:

Paper: Zhang, N., Gereke, J., & Baldassarri, D. (2022). Everyday discrimination in public spaces: a field experiment in the Milan metro. European Sociological Review, 38(5), 679-693.

Does the passengers sit next to a confederates and what effect does the ethnic background and socio-economic status have on this?

The unit of analysis and treatment assignment both are on the individual level

The level of treatment is platform train level

If somehting is internally valid and covariation between D and Y the stufy is internally valid

My key concern is that they run the experiement in two years and thigns could have changed n that time which could be a problem for internal validity? Probabaly this is actually not an issue because if they randomise within day in both years then we dont have an issue for interna validity

Guiding Questions:

To understand discrimination in informal and unstructured veryday encounters in European metropolitan cities

Lot of research about discrimination in institutional settings no reserach on how this works in informal

General a. What is the purpose/relevance of this study? What research gap does this paper try to fill? Which exact causal question do the authors try to answer? b. Why do the authors conduct a field experiment? Or put differently: Why can we not just collect all "bench-sitting data" in the Italian tube system and then test for different "sitting-rates"? Confederates from 2 different ethnic background AND the Wether people sit next to the confederates

2 Measurement and design a. What is the treatment? What is the outcome (variable)? Do the authors measure any covariates? b. What is the unit of analysis / what are the observations? c. What is the level of treatment assignment? d. Why do the authors use three (treatment/control) groups / different types of treatments (instead of two)? But in general I would see what I can control - which is time of day, empty space, station and people on the bench - and I would assume that everything else is random

3 Internal validity a. How would you assess whether the field experiment is (likely to be) internally valid? Do the authors provide supporting tests for the identifying assumption(s)? b. Do you have any key concerns about the internal validity of this experiment? c. Do the authors remove some observations? If so, why? If YES - paires/groups because they might react not, would you recommend doing so? different then individials traveling alone

4 Heterogeneity and mechanisms a. According to the authors, what are the two competing theories that and statistical (pg. explain everyday discrimination? How do they test which one is (more likely to be) true? b. Which heterogeneous effects do the authors examine? Which other ones would you have assessed? By changing the socieconomic apperance of the confadarates

Final question:

How would you assess everyday discrimination? This could be an experiment or an observational study.

I like the filed experiemnt approach and I would do something similar probably. I would send confederates into a coffee or restaurant and I would use a hidden camera to record the interaction. Later I would analyse things like eye contact, tone, facial expressions, politeness etc

Or maybe use a VR simulations that is start to become increasingly prevalent in psychology and Participants experience social situations (e.g., walking through a store, sitting in a café) through the eyes of a racial minority in a VR simulation. Simulated interactions include subtle forms of racism (e.g., being ignored, getting different service).

> Helps measure implicit biases in real-time. Can test participants of different racial backgrounds to see how racism is perceived.

Random Thoughts that come up

consciously/ unconsciously when they see an immigrant in public and they wanted to control for the immigrants - aka keep their appearance the same

They do that

because they want to measure how

people react

Because they treatment vs control they measured treatment 1 in 2018 and treatment 2 in 2019 with different

taste-based perspective (pg. 685) 85-86)

Because of the time and that people travel we measure possible similar people