RCT:

Some extra background:

**Bryan, Kevin ”What randomisation can and cannot do: The 2019 Nobel Prize.”** [**https://voxeu.org/article/whatrandomisation-can-and-cannot-do-2019-nobel-prize**](https://voxeu.org/article/whatrandomisation-can-and-cannot-do-2019-nobel-prize)

• **Piper, Kelsey”A charity just admitted that its program wasn’t working. That’s a big deal.”**

[**https://www.vox.com/2018/11/29/18114585/poverty-charity-randomized-controlled-trial-evidenceaction**](https://www.vox.com/2018/11/29/18114585/poverty-charity-randomized-controlled-trial-evidenceaction)

• Look at the other articles and work related to this project: <https://faculty.som.yale.edu/mushfiqmobarak/the-effect-of-seasonal-migration-on-households-during-food-shortages-in-bangladesh/>

RCT discussion questions:

* What is the research question?
* What research design(s) do the authors use to answer the research question?
* p.1672: “Estimating the returns to migration is the subject of a very large literature, but one that has been hampered by difficult selection issues” -What are some of these selection issues?
* p. 1686: Why are there both OLS and IV estimates in this table? How should you interpret them?
* p. 1689 “None of the results discussed above are sensitive to changes in baseline control variables” Is this surprising? Why/ why not?
* p. 1718: “The scale of the experiment does not permit us to analyze potential adverse general equilibrium effects in destination labor markets if the government were to contemplate scaling up such a program”. What are the authors talking about here?
* Are you convinced that the effects identified are causal? Why, why not?

A bit of background:

-Hedonic regressions: regressions where the price of a heterogeneous good is impacted by its various characteristics.

Often used in environmental economics to understand people’s willingness to pay to avoid negative externalities, of gain access to public goods/positive externalities.

Value of a statistical life:

- willingness to pay for small reductions in mortality risks (NOT an estimate of how much money any single individual or group would be willing to pay to prevent the certain death of any particular person.)

[https://www.epa.gov/environmental-economics/mortality-risk-valuation#means](https://www.epa.gov/environmental-economics/mortality-risk-valuation%23means)

EPA: $7.4 million (in 2006$)

Department of transport: $9.1 million (in 2013$)

DID:

* What is the research question?
* What research design(s) do the authors use to answer the research question?
* p. 1697: "The leukemia cases may also have affected Lyon county indirectly by causing households to move from Churchill County to Lyon County. Either of these effects could bias the estimated differential for risk. " What assumption are the authors worried about here?
* p.1697: "The analysis does not, however, rule out the possibility that county characteristics other than leukemia incidence may have changed simultaneously". What would be some examples of potential problems here?
* p.1700: "An appealing feature of the housing sales records is that it is possible to link individual houses across years." Why is this feature of the data especially valuable?
* Are you convinced that the effects identified are causal? Why, why not?