**RESEARCH DESIGN FORM**

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| Section 1: Introduction | |
| 1. **Researcher Name:** |  |
| 1. **Research Project Title:** |  |
| 1. **One sentence summary of research question:** |  |
| 1. **Substantive motivation: [half page]** |  |
| 1. **Theoretical motivation**   **[half page]** |  |
| 1. **Key literatures/debates to which this will contribute:**   **[half page]** |  |
| 1. **Primary Hypothesis**   **[half page]** |  |
|  | |
| 1. **X:** *What are the independent variables?* |  |
| 1. **Y:** *What are your dependent variables? What is your primary outputs and outcome of interest (what data is needed)?* |  |
| 1. **Units.** *What are the “units of analysis” for your study. This might be countries, counties, politicians, schools…* |  |
| 1. **Identification**   *How can you make the case that you are identifying causal effects? For quantitative work, how can you rule out confounders? For qualitative work, what are the observable implications of your causal theory? What processes would you expect to observe if your theory is correct, and can these help to rule out rival theories?* |  |
|  | |
| 1. **Sample**   **[half page]**  *How many units (of X, Y, and relevant clusters) will you study? What is your sampling frame? How will you select your sample?* |  |
| 1. **Measurement strategy:**   **[half page]**  *Describe measurement of Y,X, and auxiliary data. Be clear about units of analysis, methods (admin data, surveys, games, other), # of data collection rounds. If you are doing qualitative work, where will you find the information you need? Which archives, news sources, historical texts?* |  |
| 1. **Heterogeneity [3-5 sentences]**   *Do you expect the treatment to work differently for certain individuals / groups / communities?* |  |
| 1. **IRB / Human subjects**   *Will you be working with human subjects, or with data that is personally identified?* |  |
|  | |
| 1. **Analysis strategy** *[half page]*   *How will you draw conclusions from your evidence? How will you know if your theory is wrong?* |  |
| 1. **Threats to internal validity**   *(eg. attrition, spillovers and its channels, Hawthorn effects, John Henry effects)* |  |
| 1. **Threats to external validity**   *(eg scope conditions, representativeness of sample).* |  |
| 1. **Writing strategy**   *Provide a table of contents.* |  |
|  | |
| 1. **Marketing strategy**   *How will you present your results to general readers? Describe any creative dissemination strategies.* |  |

**MIDA summary**

M: What are your background assumptions about how the world works: what are the variables and how are they connected

I: What is your inquiry

D: What is your data strategy

A: What is your answer strategy