

Discussion: Can we Stay One Step Ahead of Online Cheaters?

Paper By: Jose Vazquez-Cognet, Ignacio Sarmiento-Barbieri, and Timothy Chin

Discussant:
James M. Murray, Ph.D.
University of Wisconsin - La Crosse

November 18, 2017

Southern Economic Association
2017 Annual Conference

Well Done and Thought Out

- Randomized treatment for both online and face-to-face
- Accounts for differences in gender, ACT score, year-in-school, interacts these with proctoring
- Lack of differences in online section: magnitudes are small and precisely estimated

Suggestions

- Is test anxiety really independent of F2F vs online (accelerated term) decision?
- “Optimal cheating” w/r to student: Does previous exam performance influence cheating decision?
 - You do see more cheating in later exams. Interact this with previous performance.

Well Done and Thought Out

- Randomized treatment for both online and face-to-face
- Accounts for differences in gender, ACT score, year-in-school, interacts these with proctoring
- Lack of differences in online section: magnitudes are small and precisely estimated

Suggestions

- Is test anxiety really independent of F2F vs online (accelerated term) decision?
- “Optimal cheating” w/r to student: Does previous exam performance influence cheating decision?
 - You do see more cheating in later exams. Interact this with previous performance.

Important for Understanding “Optimal Cheating”

- Does cheating improve long-run retention?
- Are the students cheating themselves?

Suggested Strategy

- Treatment: All midterm exams are proctored
- Control: None of midterm exams are proctored
- Final exam: All exams are proctored for treatment & control
- Estimate immediate effects of treatment like you do
- Estimate effects on final exam

Important for Understanding “Optimal Cheating”

- Does cheating improve long-run retention?
- Are the students cheating themselves?

Suggested Strategy

- Treatment: All midterm exams are proctored
- Control: None of midterm exams are proctored
- Final exam: All exams are proctored for treatment & control
- Estimate immediate effects of treatment like you do
- Estimate effects on final exam