

# Behavioral and Experimental Economics Turin 2023

## *Exam rules*

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## 1 In short

1. The exam is a 4-pages take-home *paper report*.
2. Papers come from the reading list discussed on April 28<sup>th</sup>
3. Due on June 15<sup>th</sup>, 2023.
4. Worth 30% of the final overall mark (Anna's part is worth 70%)

## 2 Deadlines

Article reports should arrive to [paolo.crosetto@gmail.com](mailto:paolo.crosetto@gmail.com) **by 23.59, June 15th, 2023**.

This deadline is **strict**: I will *not* even look at things that arrived after that date and time.

## 3 What to do?

1. Choose **one** article out of the ones on github and read it;
2. Prepare a 4-pages report based on the rules below, and send it by the deadline.
3. Done.

## 4 Article report rules

The goal of this report is to show that you understood the article, that you understood how experimental designs are made, and to test your skills in proposing a novel experimental design on the same research question proposed by the paper, and your ideas on which data to collect and how to analyze them.

The article is composed of four parts: summary of the paper, critique of the experimental design, proposition of a novel design, data analysis plan. The article will account for 30% of the final mark on this course (Anna's part accounts for 70%)

### 4.1 Summary

I expect ~1 page; discuss the topic of the article; the main research question; the method used (data, lab, field experiment); method and main design choices (lab/field, between/within, what is randomized, the degree of control); main results.

### 4.2 Critique of the experimental design

I expect ~1 page; experimental critique: write down what you think are the strong and weak points of the experiment.

- is it an experiment? does it provide causal evidence or just correlation?
- high/low internal validity? external validity?
- Sample size good enough? representative?

- Possible confounds and how they are dealt with.
- How much confidence do you give to results?

### 4.3 Proposition of an alternative design and data analysis plan

I expect ~2 page; propose another design to answer the same question. If you are reading of a *mechanism* experiment, propose a *counterfactual* experiment; if of a counterfactual, propose a mechanism. Suppose you have no budget and time constraint whatsoever. Keep in mind the following points:

- Is there a possible natural experiment to be exploited?
- Would a field/lab enhance internal validity? external?
- What sample would you select?
- What design choices would you make? within? between? which time frame? which interventions?
- What are the possible confounds of your design and how would you go about solving them?
- Be **precise**, as if we *really* had to run the experiment

Add a section on which data you will collect, and how do you plan to use it to answer your research question.

### 4.4 Formats

**Article reports** have to be submitted in *English*. They can be submitted either as a .doc (.docx, .odt, .rtf) file or as a .pdf file (latter preferred). I expect them to be about 4 pages long – not too long, not too short, and *very* carefully done. Quality >> quantity.

## 5 Deadlines - repetition always helps

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