edX logo

MITx: 14.310x Data Analysis for Social Scientists

Module 8: Causality, Analyzing Randomized Experiments, & Nonparametric Regression > Use of Randomization and Nonparametric Regression > Randomization for Research - Quiz

Randomization for Research - Quiz

🔖 Bookmark this page

Question 1

1.0 point possible (graded)
What is an audit study?

- ⦿ a. Trained actors present themselves with the same characteristics (i.e. resume, salary, employment, etc.) except they differ by race or gender to see if they are treated differently ✔

- ○ b. A questionnaire sent to a firm regarding their hiring process in order to assess whether they engage in discriminatory practices.

- ○ c. The sending of resumes that are exactly the same except for the name of the individual. The name serves as an indicator of race and gender, and allows for the detection of discrimination.

Submit   You have used 1 of 1 attempt

✔ Correct (1/1 point)

Question 2
0/1 point (graded)
True or False: It is unclear whether the names used for the Bertrand and Mullainathan experiment discussed in the lecture signal something other than race alone.

- ○ a. True
- ⦿ b. False ✖

Explanation
While it is clear that the only thing that differs between the resumes is the name, it is not 100% clear that the name perfectly signals race. It could be, for example, that a very white sounding name indicates that you were more likely to attend a prep school or participate in certain cultural activities that the particular company may value, such as ballet or classical music. Conversely black sounding names may be chosen by African American parents with specific characteristics.

Submit   You have used 1 of 1 attempt

✖ Incorrect (0/1 point)

Question 3

1/1 point (graded)

In which of the following scenarios would you NOT need to seek Human Subjects Approval?

○ a. A study looking at the response rate of government officials to inquiries from male vs. female researchers using the exact same email templates that differed only by the name in the signature (which indicated gender).

○ b. A study using fake dating site profiles that are exactly the same except for the weight of the individual (obese vs. non-obese) to measure discriminatory dating practices in regards to weight.

○ c. A study in which you directly measured individual's discriminatory attitudes via an online questionnaire

◉ d. A study in which fake resumes were sent to firms via a job search database and the outcome measured was callbacks. The resumes differed only in the race or gender of the individual. ✔

Explanation

As Prof. Duflo mentions, firms are not considered people. In the Bertrand and Mullainathan, they sent fake resumes to firms that were exactly the same except for the name of the individual, which signaled gender and race. Since the experimentation involved firms and not individuals, they did not need to seek Human Subjects Approval. All other examples listed in the answer choices involve individuals and, as a result, would require Human Subjects Approval.

Submit   You have used 1 of 2 attempts

✔ Correct (1/1 point)

Discussion
Topic: Module 8 / Randomization for Research - Quiz

Show Discussion

POWERED BY
OPENedX