Pre-Analysis Plan:  
[[1]](#footnote-21)

Author’s name[[2]](#footnote-22)

Date of latest draft

# Introduction

## Abstract

* In 1-2 sentences, what does the study entail?
* In 1-2 sentences, why is this study important/relevant?

## Motivation

* What is the main problem/question motivating the study?
* How has this problem/question been addressed thus far?
* How is this study different from prior research on this problem/question?
* Why is the context that you have chosen for this study appropriate?

## Research Questions

* What are the main research questions the study seeks to answer?

# Research Strategy

## Sampling

### Sampling Frame

* What is the eligible population for the study?
  + What are the main characteristics of this population?
* What is the expected sample for the study?
  + What is the expected sample size?
  + How does the expected sample differ from the population?

### Statistical Power

* What is the effect size you will be able to detect?
  + What are your assumptions about your alpha-level?
  + What are your assumptions about your statistical power?
  + What are your assumptions about variability in your effect size?
  + How many sites will you have?
  + How many people will you have in each site?
  + What share of the variance do you expect to predict with your covariates?
* How sensitive is your effect size to changes in your parameters?

### Assignment to Treatment

* How will individuals be assigned to treatment and control conditions?
* What is the source of exogenous variation in your study?

### Attrition from the Sample

* Do you anticipate any form of attrition from the sample?
  + If so, what share of the sample do you anticipate will attrit?
  + On what evidence are you basing your expectations about attrition?
  + How realistic are your expectations about attrition?
* What can you do anything to prevent/remedy sample attrition?
* How does expected attrition change your power calculations?

## Fieldwork

### Instruments

* What data collections instruments will you employ?
  + What (groups of) indicators will each instrument cover?
  + How was each instrument developed?
  + Have each instrument been used before?
  + If so, by whom? If not, are you piloting it?
  + What are the main advantages/disadvantages of each instrument?

### Data Collection

* How long will the entire data collection process take from start to finish?
* What does the data collection entail?
* What steps will be take to keep the data collected confidential at this stage?

### Data Processing

* How long will data processing take from start to finish?
* What does the data processing entail?
* What steps will be take to keep the processed data confidential?
* Who has ownership over the processed data?
* How will the data be used/stored after the study at this stage?

# Empirical Analysis

## Variables

* What are the main variables of interest in your study?
  + How is each of them defined in your dataset?

## Balancing Checks

* How will you check balance between treatment and control groups?
  + What is the specification that you will run?
  + What variables will you include in these balancing checks?
* How will you check balance between attritors and non-attritors?
  + What is the specification that you will run?
  + What variables will you include in these balancing checks?

## Treatment Effects

### Intent to Treat

* How will you estimate the (causal) effect of the offer of the treatment?
  + What is the specification that you will run?
  + What controls will you include in your specification?

### Treatment on the Treated

* How will you estimate the (causal) effect of the receipt of the treatment?
  + What is the specification that you will run?
  + What controls will you include in your specification?

## Heterogeneous Effects

* Which groups do you anticipate will display heterogeneous effects?
* What is the broad theory of action that leads you to anticipate these effects?

### Intent to Treat

* How will you estimate the heterogeneous effects of the offer of the treatment?
  + What are the specifications that you will run?
  + What controls will you include in your specification?

### Treatment on the Treated

* How will you estimate the heterogeneous effects of the receipt of the treatment?
  + What are the specifications that you will run?
  + What controls will you include in your specification?

## Standard Error Adjustments

* How will you account for clustering in your data?
* How will you address false positives from multiple hypothesis testing?
  + If you plan to adjust your standard errors, what adjustment procedure will you use? (e.g., Family Wise Error Rate, False Discovery Rates, etc.)
  + If you plan to aggregate multiple variables into an index, which variables will you aggregate and how?
  + How will you deal with outcomes with limited variation?

# Research Team

* Who are the principal investigators of this study?
  + What will each of these investigators do?
* Will there be any research assistants in this study?
  + If so, what will these research assistants do?

# Deliverables

* What are the main products that will result from this study?
* Who will be the lead author(s) for each of these deliverables?

# Calendar

* How long will the entire study take from start to finish?
* What are the different tasks/steps to be completed each week/month?

# Budget

* What will each part of this study cost?
* What sources of funding do you anticipate?

1. Acknowledgements and disclaimers. [↑](#footnote-ref-21)
2. Author’s affiliation and e-mail. [↑](#footnote-ref-22)