Prof. Ana Bracic Michigan State University bracic@msu.edu

Assignment on experiments for Migracije, Spring 2021

DUE: by email to me by 22:00 (Slovene time) on April 23 (bracic@msu.edu)
Submit ONE copy per group, with everyone included in the email

This is a group assignment. You will be graded as a group, which means that every member of the group receives the same grade. Every member of the group is expected to contribute to the assignment. I will ask you to include participation information when you submit the assignment. If a group member does not contribute to the assignment at all, that person receives no credit for the assignment. **Make sure everyone's name is written in the document!**

You can write this assignment in English or in Slovene; both are great and it's completely your choice. **If you have any questions, I'm happy to answer over email (bracic@msu.edu).**

The purpose of this assignment is to design a simple experiment of your own. The experiment should be about migration, broadly, and can cover any aspect of it.

The *dependent variable* must be about individual attitudes or behaviors—you should either aim to capture how participants behave or what they think:

> Examples of host population behavior include voting, giving someone a job interview, helping someone on the street, giving someone an answer when they call with a question (say, if you work at an employment office or at a hospital), etc. Examples of host population attitudes include general questions about prejudice, questions about trust, questions on whether immigrants should have certain rights (regarding education, language, religion, food, etc), questions about whether the participant is planning on voting in the next election, and so on.
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> Examples of immigrant population behaviors include speaking up about discrimination, avoiding public spaces, participating in activism, learning the host population language, looking for employment, participating in immigrant networks, applying for asylum, applying for citizenship, etc. Examples of immigrant population attitudes include general questions about prejudice, questions about trust, questions about which coping mechanisms are appropriate (resistance, withdrawal, assimilation), and so on.

To complete the assignment, please provide an answer to each of the components below.

1. Research question [2 points]
What are you trying to find out? Make sure your research question is narrow and specific. What is your population of interest (who will be your study participants)?

2. Independent variable [1 point]
This is the variable that you think causes the change in the dependent variable. You will manipulate this variable in your experiment.

3. Dependent variable [1 point]
This is the variable that you think changes in response to the independent variable. It is either a behavior or an attitude.

4. Hypothesis [2 points]
This is your prediction about the relationship between the dependent and the independent variables.

5. Connecting logic [4 points]
Why do you think the independent variable influences the dependent variable? Please explain the connecting logic in a few sentences.

6. Your experimental design [12 points]
This is the most extensive part of the assignment. Please explain your experimental design and provide the following details:

Experimental treatments – This is your independent variable.

- If you are dividing your participants into a control and into a treatment group, please describe what each group will see (remember that conjoint experiments don't require two groups, but that other experiments do).
- If your control/treatment is a series of questions, please write those questions (use the Blinder et al. example to help you).
- If your control/treatment is two different kinds of curriculum vitae, please provide examples of both documents (use the Adida et al. example to help you).
- If you are doing a conjoint experiment, please provide an example of a table that shows what the participants will see (use the Bansak et al. example to help you).

Outcome measure – This is your dependent variable.

- The outcome measure can be in the form of a question, if you are measuring attitudes. Please write that question.
- If you are measuring behaviors, the outcome measure can be a variety of things, depending on what behavior you are trying to measure.
    - For example, if you are doing a correspondence study where a reply from a potential employer or a potential landlord is your dependent variable, then suggest measuring the reply by counting the number of positive emails or phone calls that invite the applicants to a job interview (if looking at employers) or to view an apartment for rent (if looking at landlords).
    - If you are measuring helping behaviors, consider the dictator game (like in the Bracic example). There are other creative ways of measuring helping, like helping someone carry a heavy bag, helping someone cross the street, helping to pick something up after someone drops it by accident (these options require a staged scenario where the people who need help are actually a part of the experimental team).
    - If you want to measure activist behavior, you can give participants the opportunity to sign a petition or donate to a particular organization. Whether they signed or whether they donated would your measure of the dependent variable.
    - You can also ask people about their behaviors instead. You can ask people if they will attend activist events in the future, or if they will be more likely to avoid public spaces in the future, or if they are willing to speak out about discrimination, etc.

7. Contributions [3 points]
Please list all the members of the group and write down what they contributed to the assignment. If everyone contributed equally, you can simply write that everyone contributed equally.