

Survey experiments II

Instructors: Alexandra Jabbour
Mathew Creighton (University College Dublin)

Organised by: Valentina Di Stasio & Filip Kostelka

Contact: Monika.Rzemieniecka@eui.eu

Dates and schedule:

Monday 19 May @ Badia Fiesolana, Seminar Room 2
Tuesday 20 May @ Badia Fiesolana, Seminar Room 2

Credits: 10

Outline

A successful application of survey experiments requires that we anticipate the interpretative strengths and weaknesses of a given design. The workshop “Survey Experiments II” builds upon a strong foundation in the principles of experimental design, focusing on specific applications that address external validity and social desirability. The workshop is open to all students who have completed “Survey Experiments I”, as well as to those already familiar with survey experiments who have not taken “Survey Experiments I” but wish to deepen their methodological knowledge. It consists of two parts. In the first, Alexandra Jabbour will reveal the delicate balance between abstraction and concreteness in treatment design. The goal is to offer a deep understanding of how this balance shapes external validity and the key aspects to consider when designing a survey experiment. In the second part, Mathew Creighton will consider the meaning and mediation of social desirability in publicly expressed attitudes. The session will address the theoretical and interpretative frames required to understand how experimental design can reveal covert expression of controversial sentiment. This theoretical foundation will inform the application of the item-count technique, which can manipulate anonymity to elicit distinct response patterns that direct questioning in a survey cannot.

Alexandra Jabbour is a Max Weber Fellow and part-time assistant professor at the EUI, affiliated with the department of political and social sciences. She conducts research at the intersection of political economy, political behavior and comparative politics. She obtained her PhD in political science from the University of Montreal in 2023.

Mathew Creighton is a member of the Geary Institute for Public Policy, University College Dublin, and Boğaziçi University. He is currently a principal investigator and overall coordinator of the Horizon Europe project EqualStrength, which examines prejudice and discrimination in employment, childcare, and housing throughout Europe. He served as the national (co)coordinator of the European Social Survey in Ireland between 2016 and 2023. His recent book “Hidden Hate – The Resilience of Xenophobia” was published by Columbia University Press in 2024. Based on survey experiments conducted in the United States, the United Kingdom, Ireland, Norway, and the Netherlands, the book provides rigorous evidence that overt anti-immigrant sentiment is strategically expressed and can often mask greater intolerance that is only observed under conditions of anonymity. Mathew received a joint PhD in sociology and demography from the University of Pennsylvania in 2009.