

**Compilation of Group Activity from October 26, 2007 ITP Seminar
Estimating Causal Effects Using Secondary Data Analysis: Research Ideas**

DISCIPLINE: ECONOMICS		
IES Content Area/ Research Question	Data Source(S) and relevant data available	Applicable Quasi-Experimental Method(s)
<i>IES Content Area: Social & Behavioral Context for Academic Learners</i> -Peer effects -Effect of desegregation -Ability tracking	-State-level administrative data --(key: observe peer groups not available in national databases) -TN STAR -Add Health	-random assignment -Instrumental Variables
<i>IES Content Area: Ed Policy, Finance, and Systems</i> -The effect of increased school competition (through school choice policy) on public school quality of instruction	-State and district level data --requires direct negotiation, data release agreements, and IRB --large scale national level data sets don't have enough geographic detail, along with full population of students	-mixed logit (generalization of logit) -fixed effects -control functions
DISCIPLINE: POLITICAL SCIENCE		
IES Content Area/ Research Question	Data Source(S) and relevant data available	Applicable Quasi-Experimental Method(s)
<i>IES Content Area: Ed Policy, Finance, and Systems</i> -School choice -Does it work? (achievement and other outcomes)	-NELS -State level data sources	-Propensity scores (Buckley & Schneider) -Instrumental Variables (religion and distance)
<i>IES Content Area: Cognition and student learning</i> -What is the effect of education on civic engagement and socialization? -What works in civic education?	-NLS/ANES -CPS (2004) -NHES ('96, also perhaps '99) -Niemi & Jennings study	-Regression
<i>IES Content Area: Education leadership</i> -Effective school governance (unions, districts, mayor takeover, etc.)	-State level data -SASS	-Instrumental Variables (Hoxby, effect of multiple districts)

DISCIPLINE: POLITICAL SCIENCE		
IES Content Area/ Research Question	Data Source(S) and relevant data available	Applicable Quasi-Experimental Method(s)
<i>IES Content Area:</i> Ed Policy, Finance, and Systems -Public opinion about schooling: --What is it? --How does it change? --Does it impact policy? --Does it follow other public opinion patterns?	-PDK polls -ANES -PEW	-survey experiments
DISCIPLINE: PSYCHOLOGY		
IES Content Area/ Research Question	Data Source(S) and relevant data available	Applicable Quasi-Experimental Method(s)
<i>IES Content Area:</i> Cognition and student learning -What cognitive processes affect educational outcomes?	-Databases with cognitive measures --self-esteem --identification with school or subject --goals --motivational relevant variables -Existing RCTs -Video studies of teachers/lessons --e.g., Janet Hyde math project --TIMSS -ECLS	-Mine data for ideas/correlations, then design and run experiments to test causality
DISCIPLINE: SOCIOLOGY		
IES Content Area/ Research Question	Data Source(S) and relevant data available	Applicable Quasi-Experimental Method(s)
<i>IES Content Area:</i> Ed Policy, Finance, and Systems -Cross-national comparative research	-Natural experiments -Sudden structural changes -State differences	-Discontinuity design

DISCIPLINE: SOCIOLOGY		
IES Content Area/ Research Question	Data Source(S) and relevant data available	Applicable Quasi-Experimental Method(s)
<p><i>IES Content Area:</i> Social and behavioral context for academic learners -Neighborhood effects --e.g., How does neighborhood context affect high school completion (Harding, 2003)?</p>	-Panel Study for Income Dynamics	-Propensity score matching
<p>-How does retention affect student achievement? --(e.g., Jacob & Lefgren, 2004)</p>	-Chicago Consortium data	-Regression discontinuity design
<p><i>IES Content Area:</i> Postsecondary education -What is the effect of financial aid on college persistence? --(e.g., Alon, 2007)</p>	-College and Beyond	-Instrumental variables
<p><i>IES Content Area:</i> Social and behavioral context for academic learners -What is the effect of school sector on student achievement? --(e.g., Morgan, 2001)</p>	-High school and beyond	-Propensity score matching