

AREC 815: Experimental and Behavioral Economics

Presentation Assignment 2

Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics
University of Maryland
Fall 2016

You will “teach” one of the papers listed below to the class on November 16 and November 21.

Your teaching of a paper should involve a (no more than!) 20 minute presentation of the paper’s content: research question, experimental design and/or empirical strategy, results. Your presentation should include any key figures or tables from the paper. You should discuss the methodological aspects of the paper in as much detail as time allows; remember, these papers will may be covered on the exam, and you are responsible for teaching them to your classmates. The concluding section of the presentation should summarize (what you perceive as) the paper’s key strengths and, more importantly, weaknesses. You should propose an extension to the experiment or analysis described in the paper that would address the weaknesses you highlight.

You are required to prepare slides; these must be saved in the AREC shared folder no later than 9:00 AM on November 16.

Eligible Papers:

- Ashraf, Nava, Dean Karlan, and Wesley Yin. (2006) “Tying Odysseus to the Mast: Evidence from a Commitment Savings Product in the Philippines,” *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, 121(2): 635–672.
- Brune, Lasse, Xavier Giné, Jess Goldberg, and Dean Yang. (2015) “Facilitating Savings For Agriculture: Field Experimental Evidence from Malawi,” *Economic Development and Cultural Change*, forthcoming. Available from Professor Goldberg’s website.
- Dupas, Pascaline, and Jonathan Robinson. (2013) “ Why Don’t the Poor Save More? Evidence from Health Savings Experiments,” *American Economic Review*, 103(4): 1138–1171.
- Duflo, Esther, Michael Kremer, and Jonathan Robinson. (2011) “Nudging Farmers to Use Fertilizer: Theory and Experimental Evidence from Kenya,” *American Economic Review*, 101(6): 2350–2390.
- Giné, Xavier, Dean Karlan, and Jonathan Zinman. (2010) “Put Your Money Where Your Butt Is: A Commitment Savings Account for Smoking Cessation,” *AEJ: Applied Economics*, 2(4): 213–235
- Kast, Felipe, Stephen Meier, and Dina Pomeranz. (2014) “Under-Savers Anonymous: Evidence on Self-Help Groups and Peer Pressure as a Savings Commitment Device,” working paper. Available from Professor Pomeranz’s website.
- Royer, Heather, Mark Stehr, and Justin Sydnor. (2014) “Incentives, Commitments and Habit Formation in Exercise: Evidence from a Field Experiment with Workers at a Fortune-500 Company,” *American Economic Journal: Applied Economics*, 7(3): 51–84.