Build-Your-First-Project Workshop
Session 2: IRB proposal

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January 7, 2018
9:00-10:00 Session 1: Platform and Funding
10:30-11:30 Session 2: IRB proposal
13:00-14:00 Session 3: Qualtrics survey experiment on MTurk
Assumptions (what I will not cover today):

- You already have a research idea
- You already have a preliminary research design
- You already know your platform and funding source → may be revised according to the platform/funding/pre-test…
- You have no knowledge/experience in conducting survey before

- For more information: Sunshine’s course and SSRI workshops!
Choosing the campus IRB, not the medical one (unless you are doing neuroscience/genetic analysis...)

Duke University Institutional Review Board
Why IRB?

- Protect yourself.
- Endorsed by the school.
- Protect the participants.
- **For graduation and publication.**
0 Is your project needed for the IRB approval?
   1 Existing datasets → NO, unless the human subjects are identifiable.
   2 All data collection methods → YES

1 Submit your proposal to any IRB staff through email.

2 IRB staff reviews the proposal using expedited or full procedures.
   1 Survey → Expedited
   2 Random assignment (cheating), manipulating emotion...etc → Full

3 How long will it take?
   1 Expedited: About 1 weeks (approved by anonymous reviewers)
   2 Full: At least 3 weeks. It needs to be reviewed through staff meeting
      (check the IRB meeting schedule!)
How long will it take?

https://campusirb.duke.edu/irb-process

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What should be put on the Duke IRB proposal

- Research design
- Full questionnaire
  (including debrief and the introduction, everything)
- Funding source

- Literature review and reference? Only needed for justifying your research design.
Example 1

- A simple survey experiment on Amazon MTurk (Expedited)
- 10 days from submission to approval (1 R&R).
- Things to notice:
  1. P.2 Funding source (If it is an external fund, you need to provide the application/approval of that in the Appendix)
  2. P.4 Subject selection (needs to be very clear and in detail)
  3. P.4 Confidentiality → How to compensate the subjects without knowing who they are? Much complex for the lab experiment.
  4. P.6 Informed consent and Debriefing (IRB staff will scrutinize these two)
  5. P.11 Info on MTurk (What the participant will see before clicking your survey link, IRB staff will also check this part)
A complex survey experiment outside the U.S. (Full review)
23 days from submission to approval (2 R&R).

Things to notice:
1. P.3 More literature review for justifying the research design.
2. P.4 The mechanism of anonymous compensation
3. P.6 Indicating the deception!
4. P.6 A clear debriefing.
5. P.7 In most of the cases, you can translate the questionnaire by yourself.
6. P.11 A clear, informed consent form (Emphasizing that the subject can leave the survey anytime he/she wants.)
Frequently asked Questions

- Multiple experiments (on the same questionnaire) in the same IRB application? YES
- Pre- and full-test in the same application? YES
- Changing my design/funding/survey firm after the pre-test? Contact IRB staff, they will decide whether to review it again.
- Collecting data before applying IRB? Not allowed.
- Co-authored with non-Dukies? Only one IRB is needed.
Pre-registration!

1. Research design + IRB + Pre-analysis plan
2. Some journals set quota for pre-registered researches (e.g. JEPS)
3. Enhancing transparency and persuading the reviewers
4. But also see Fafchamps and Labonne 2017 on PA

http://egap.org/register-your-design (All Columbia students use this now)

https://cos.io/prereg/ (Can win $1000!)

For more info: contact Prof. Edmund Malesky.
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