

## Summer Institute Instructor

Donald P. Green is A. Whitney Griswold Professor of Political Science at Yale University, where he has taught since 1989. Since 1996, he has served as director of Yale's Institution for Social and Policy Studies, an interdisciplinary research center that emphasizes field experimentation. His research interests span a wide array of topics: voting behavior, partisanship, campaign finance, rationality, research methodology, and hate crime. His recent books include *Partisan Hearts and Minds: Political Parties and the Social Identities of Voters* (Yale University Press 2002) and *Get Out the Vote!: How to Increase Voter Turnout* (Brookings Institution Press 2004).

## Who Should Attend

We welcome participants from both academic and nonacademic settings. We hope to create a rich interdisciplinary setting in which participants from many backgrounds can examine ways in which their research can be improved through use of experiments. Familiarity with basic statistical concepts is helpful but not essential. Three weeks in advance of the Program we will distribute a course reader designed to introduce key concepts and examples.

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Summer Program:  
Designing, Conducting,  
and Analyzing Field  
Experiments



ISPS — Yale University

# Summer Program: Designing, Conducting, and Analyzing Field Experiments

July 20–22, 2005

New Haven, Connecticut

Co-sponsored by:

The Institution for Social & Policy Studies at  
Yale University and Inter-University Consortium  
for Political and Social Research (ICPSR)

**WE INVITE YOU** to attend *The Summer Program: Designing, Conducting, and Analyzing Field Experiments*, a three day short course.

In this short course you will:

- Learn about why experiments are valuable tools for social science and program evaluation.
- Examine in depth examples of how field experiments are designed, executed, and analyzed.
- Explore and develop your own research ideas through discussion with peers and specialists.

## What are experiments and why are they valuable?

Experiments enable social scientists to draw valid inferences about cause and effect. The essential ingredient of experimentation is random assignment of people to treatment and control groups. Randomization ensures that these groups differ solely due to chance. So long as an experiment involves an ample number of subjects, the role of chance becomes minimal; the treatment and control conditions become virtually identical. These equivalent groups are then presented with different treatments. Since pre-existing differences have been eliminated, the different responses of the treatment and control groups may be attributed to the influence of the treatment.

Experiments correct many of the deficiencies of observational, or nonexperimental, data. Random assignment enables researchers to disentangle the complex causal interplay among variables. It also affords the researcher much more control over what that treatment is and how accurately it is measured. There are, of course, practical as well as ethical limits to the sorts of experiments that can be performed in social science. Nevertheless, the range of applications remains very large. The Summer Program discusses a wide array of exemplary experiments in the fields of political science, advertising, public policy, health, and criminal justice.

## Field experiments at Yale University

One of the hallmarks of ISPS is its commitment to field experimentation. Unlike laboratory experiments, field experiments take place in real-world settings: political campaigns, schools, police agencies, and the like. For example, scholars at ISPS have conducted experiments on voter mobilization and persuasion involving millions of subjects in more than a dozen states <http://www.yale.edu/isps/publications/>. Other field experiments are currently underway to study the effects of civics curricula in schools, of different policies on the behavior of the mentally ill homeless, and of lottery winnings on subsequent social and psychological outcomes. In each case, treatment and control groups are assigned at random, enabling researchers to draw secure inferences about cause and effect.

## Lectures and Workshops

### Wednesday, July 20

- Morning Session: *Why Experiment?*
- Lunch
- Afternoon Session: *Research Design*

### Thursday, July 21

- Morning Session: *Analysis of Experimental Data*
- Lunch
- Afternoon Session: *Exemplars of Experiments in the Social Sciences*

### Friday, July 22

- Morning Session: *The Practical and Analytic Challenges of Current Projects*

The Friday session will conclude with a luncheon.

*Housing:* Participants will have their choice of two New Haven hotels, and we also offer a reasonably priced on-campus housing option. All accommodations are walking distance from the shopping district, restaurants, and nightlife.

## Application

A complete Program Catalog, including an application is available on the ICPSR Web site. To request a printed copy of the catalog, or for more information, please contact:

ICPSR SUMMER PROGRAM  
P.O. Box 1248  
Ann Arbor, MI 48106-1248  
(734) 763-7400 or fax (734) 647-9100  
[sumprog@icpsr.umich.edu](mailto:sumprog@icpsr.umich.edu)  
[www.icpsr.umich.edu/sumprog](http://www.icpsr.umich.edu/sumprog)

Additional information is also available at the ISPS web site: <http://www.yale.edu/isps/conferences/>

*Fee: ICPSR Member: \$800; Nonmember: \$1,600*

This fee may be reduced or waived in cases of financial need. Applicants for these awards must include a cover letter explaining their background and interests in the field, a vita, and a letter of recommendation.

*Enrollment is limited to only 24 participants – applications for financial assistance are due by April 29. Individual applications for admission will be kept open until the class has been filled.*