

Working Group in African Political Economy

2017 WGAPE@NYUAD Special Meeting

New York University – Abu Dhabi

3-8 January 2017



Introduction

The [Working Group in African Political Economy \(WGAPE\)](#) brings together faculty and advanced graduate students in Economics, Political Science, and other Social Science disciplines who combine field research experience in Africa with training in political economy methods. It is co-led by Daniel Posner (Political Science, UCLA), Edward Miguel (Economics, UC Berkeley), and Brian Dillon (Evans School of Public Affairs, University of Washington). We are collaborating with partners at NYU - Abu Dhabi, J. Andrew Harris (Political Science, NYU, Abu Dhabi), Melina Platas Izama (Political Science, NYU, Abu Dhabi), and Peter van der Windt (Political Science, NYU, Abu Dhabi) to host a special WGAPE meeting with a research discussions component and training module.

From **January 3 – 5**, for invited African scholars, we will organize **Learning Days**; a training workshop on experimental methods. The training will provide scholars a chance to advance their knowledge of research methods in studying topics relevant to political economy of Africa, best research practices, transparency, and the resources for relevant data sources, training materials, and networking opportunities.

The **Research Workshop (January 6-8)** is built around in-depth discussions of papers and research designs that are circulated and read in advance. Presenters provide little more than a few brief, orienting comments before the floor is opened for discussion. WGAPE is more a forum for presenting work in progress than polished, finished projects and provides an unparalleled opportunity for useful feedback.

Host: New York University, Abu Dhabi

Date and location:

- **January 3-5, 2017:** The Learning Days will take place in building A5, room 101.
- **January 6-8, 2017:** The Research Workshop will take place in building A6, Room 005.

Instructions:

- Papers and research designs will be circulated and are expected to be read in advance.
- During the Research Workshop, each presenter has one hour during discussion sessions. The presenter may provide a 5 minute introduction at the beginning of that hour.

Funding:

- WGAPE@NYUAD is funded by New York University – Abu Dhabi, Center for Effective Global Action (CEGA), Evidence for Governance and Politics (EGAP), and Berkeley Initiative for Transparency in the Social Sciences (BITSS).

Learning Days

One goal of WGAPE@NYUAD is to make researchers – especially from Africa – aware of the latest research tools. To do so, 3 – 5 January will be dedicated to a training workshop where core experimental methods in the field of political economy are discussed. Moreover, one goal of the training is to make sure we are all at the same methodological level before the start of WGAPE on January 6th. It is also a good way to get to know each other.

- The workshop is organized in collaboration with EGAP (www.egap.org) and coordinated by Peter van der Windt (Political Science, NYU Abu Dhabi) and Maarten Voors (EGAP and Wageningen University).
- The trainers will be: Melina Platas Izama (Political Science, NYU Abu Dhabi), Andy Harris (Political Science, NYU Abu Dhabi), Gareth Nellis (EGAP, UC Berkeley), Dan Posner (Political Science, UCLA), Peter van der Windt (Political Science, NYU Abu Dhabi) and Maarten Voors (EGAP and Wageningen University).
- Please bring a laptop.
- We will use material developed by EGAP (<http://egap.org/list-methods-guides>)
- Additional material draws from:
 - Dunning, Thad. 2012. Natural experiments in the social sciences: a design-based approach. New York: Cambridge University Press
 - Gerber, Alan S, y Donald P Green. 2012. Field experiments: Design, analysis, and interpretation: New York: W.W. Norton
 - Gertler et al: Gertler, Paul J.; Martinez, Sebastian; Premand, Patrick; Rawlings, Laura B.; Vermeersch, Christel M. J.. 2011. Impact Evaluation in Practice. World Bank
 - Glennerster et al: Glennerster, Rachel; Takavarasha, Kudzai. 2013. Running Randomized Evaluations: A Practical Guide. Princeton
- Preparation before the workshop. Please prepare a brief (5 minutes) statement to introduce yourself (who you are, where you work, what are your expectations for the Learning Days) and to present your research question and general idea of your project that you will work on during the workshop.
- Every participant must have a research project to work on throughout the week. If you would like to discuss potential research project options with us in advance of the training, please send us an email. We are happy to discuss!

Research Workshop

The core goal of WGAPE@NYUAD is to provide a forum for scholars to present and receive feedback on their works in progress on research studying the political economy of Africa. We have a total of 8 papers and 5 research designs to be discussed during the Research Workshop. Research designs are often in the style of pre-analysis plans, a useful tool to describe the study design, outline hypotheses, specify variable construction, and pre-specify the analysis of data.

Networking

Another goal of WGAPE@NYUAD is to connect scholars working on the political economy of Africa, and to build a network among them. To do so we would like to connect researchers with each other, and particularly senior researchers with more junior researchers. We will do so with “speed dating” moments during the research workshop.

Learning Days: January 3-8

Monday 2 January: Welcome and Arrivals for Learning Day

- Once you arrive at NYUAD please visit the Welcome Center, located in building C2, ground floor and a member of the hospitality team will assist you with checking-in.
- At the same time ask them for your guest pass, you will need to leave a piece of ID with them. This guest pass will give you access to buildings A5 and A6 where WGAPE will take place
- Information and welcome packets will be available in your hotel room and include meal vouchers. Meal vouchers can be used in D1 and D2 dining halls (see campus map later in this document).
- During the Learning Days, breakfast, lunch and dinner are not organized. You can take your meal vouchers to D1 and D2.

Tuesday 3 January 2017: Getting Started

Location: Social Science Building, Building A5, Room 101

Morning: Introduction and causal inference

10:00 -12:00 PM: Welcome

- Introduction of group
- Introduction of WGAPE and EGAP (what is + types of projects)
- Discussion of the days to come, including WGAPE research days
- Objectives of Learning Days
- Expectations for collaboration: Ask questions (when you ask questions you are helping everyone, including the professors)! It is ok to sit or stand during lectures and discussions (just not in front of other people).
- Logistics
- Brief statement of research projects by participants (no formal presentation). A five minute introduction to your research project, stressing motivation and research question, and main evaluation design plan.

12:00–1:00 PM: Lecture 1: Causal inference – Maarten Voors

- Research questions: what are X and Y? What might it mean to say *X caused Y*?
- The potential outcomes framework and the fundamental problem of causal inference
- What do experiments have to do with causality?

1:00 –2:00 PM: LUNCH

Afternoon: Research Design and Design Clinic

2:00–3:00 PM: Research presentation ¹ – Peter van der Windt

- Romera et al (2016: "Do voters reward policy? Evidence from a public-private partnership in education in Liberia"

¹ These research presentations are meant to be about the **process** of doing research. The presentation are short to allow questions.

3:00–3:30 PM: Lecture 2 Stages of research design and implementation – Maarten Voors

- Introducing the *research design form*.

3:30–5:00 PM: Design clinic: your project

- Break in small groups.
- Work on *research design form*.
- Small Group discussions on research ideas: What are causal drivers and what are outcomes? By what “theory of change” or “causal mechanism” should the drivers influence the outcomes?

5:00–5:30 PM: Recap

- Recap
- Quick go around: what did you find useful? What would you like to hear more about?

Resources

- [10 strategies for figuring out if X causes Y](#)
- [10 things you need to know about causal inference](#)
- Research design form (to be distributed)

Wednesday, 4 January 2017: Identification and Randomization

Location: Social Science Building, Building A5, Room 101

Morning: Recap and Randomization strategies

9:00–10:00 AM: Lecture 3 Research Transparency – Maarten Voors

10:00–10:15 AM: Reflections on Day 1

10:15–12:00 PM: Lecture 4 Randomization – Gareth Nellis

- Mechanics of replicable randomization
- Strategies for randomization: simple, clustered, factorial, intertemporal, block randomized, (the idea of the power of a statistical test)
- Examples from the field

12:00–1:00 PM: Lecture 5 What is a hypothesis test for a randomized experiment? – Gareth Nellis

- Classical hypothesis testing
- Fisher’s test of the sharp null hypothesis of no effects and relationship with large sample tests.

1:00–2:00 PM LUNCH

Afternoon: Design Workshop

2:00–3:00 PM: Research presentation 2 – Melina Platas Izama

- Blattman et al (2016): “A Market Equilibrium Approach to Reduce the Incidence of Vote-Buying: Evidence from Uganda”

3:00–5:00 PM: Design clinic: assignments and design form

- Work on research design form
- Focus on strategy for hypothesis testing for each design
- Focus on randomization strategies for each design

5:00–5:30 PM: Recap

- Recap
- Quick go around: what did you find useful? What would you like to hear more about?

Resources

- [10 things you need to know about randomization](#)

Thursday, 5 January 2017: Estimation of Causal Effects and Statistical Power

Location: Social Science Building, Building A5, Room 101

Morning: Estimation and Testing of Causal Effects

9:00–9:15 AM: Reflections on Day 2 from the participants

9:15–11:00 AM Lecture 6 Average Treatment Effect and Statistical Inference – Peter van der Windt

- Unbiased estimation of average treatment effects, Standard Errors, Confidence Intervals.
- Partial compliance: LATE and ITT

11:00–12:00 PM Lecture 7 Power analysis – Gareth Nellis

- What it is, relation to sample size, dispersion, standard methods, simulations

12:00–1:00 PM: Research presentation – Dan Posner

- Title TBD

1:00–2:00 PM LUNCH

Afternoon: Design Workshop, prepare presentation

2:00–3:00 PM: Design clinic: assignments and design form

- Work on research design form
- Feedback and questions
- Figuring out the power for each study
- Work on research design
- Prepare presentation

3:00–5:00 PM: Topics

Based on demand we will discuss on one or more of the following themes.

1. IRB/Ethics
2. Spillovers & Attrition & Mediation
3. Partnerships
4. Measurement strategies
5. Reproducible workflow

5:00–5:30 PM: Recap

- Recap
- Quick go around: what did you find useful? What would you like to hear more about?

Resources

- [10 things you should know about the local average treatment effect 10 things you need to know about spillovers in experimental analysis](#)
- [10 things you need to know about statistical power](#)
- [10 things you need to know about covariate adjustment](#)
- [10 things you need to know about multiple comparisons](#)
- <https://egap.shinyapps.io/spillover-app/>
- https://egap.shinyapps.io/Power_Calculator/

8–10PM: Informal Welcome Drink WGAPE workshop participants

- An informal drink will be hosted at Peter van der Windt's apartment: Building B1, Apartment 907

Research Workshop: January 6-8

Thursday 5 January: Welcome and Arrivals for WGAPE Research Workshop

- Once you arrive at NYUAD please visit the Welcome Center, located in building C2, ground floor and a member of the hospitality team will assist you with checking-in.
- At the same time ask them for your guest pass, you will need to leave a piece of ID with them. This guest pass will give you access to buildings A5 and A6 where WGAPE will take place
- Information and welcome packets will be available in your hotel room.
- If not indicated differently, breakfast, coffee breaks and lunch will take place at the same location where the Research Workshop takes place.

Friday 6 January: WGAPE Papers and Design

Location: Conference Center, Building A6, Room 005

8:30-9:00 AM: Registration and Breakfast

9:00-9:30 AM: Welcome & Introductions

- NYUAD: Andy Harris, Peter van der Windt, and Melina Platas Izama
- WGAPE: Corinne Cooper, Dan Posner
- Introductions
- Explanation of speed-dating and collect names from people that want to participate

9:30-10:30 AM: Paper 1

"How Transparency Affects Distributional Politics: A Field Experiment among Elected Politicians in Malawi"
Ryan Jablonski, London School of Economics

10:30-11:30 AM: Paper 2

"Honor among Chiefs: An Experiment on Transparency and Leakage in Malawi"
Elizabeth Carlson, Pennsylvania State University

11:30-12:00 PM: Coffee & Refreshments

12:00-1:00 PM: Paper 3

"Who Governs? Education as Colonial Revenue Maximization"
Joan Ricart-Huguet, Princeton University

1:00-2:00 PM: Lunch & speed-dating

2:00-3:00 PM: Research Design 1

"Power to the People: The Politics of Electricity Service Provision and Citizenship in Africa"
Jennifer Brass, Indiana University

3:00-3:15 PM: Coffee & Refreshments

3:15-4:15 PM: Research Design 2

"Political Mobilization and the Market for Authority in East Africa"
Michael Seese, UC San Diego

4:30-6:00 PM: Design presentations of Learning Day Participants

- The 10 Learning Days participants will each do a 15-min presentation of their research design, with a three minute discussion with replies from audience
- We will split into two rooms. The WGAPE participants and Learning Day instructors will provide verbal comments, with additional feedback provided via email as necessary

7:00 PM: Dinner

- **Location:** Al Mayas Restaurant, Sheraton Corniche
- Departure for dinner at 7pm from Lobby of Conference Center, Building A6

Saturday 7 January: WGAPE Papers, Design and Tour

Location: Conference Center, Building A6, Room 005

8:30-9:00 AM: Breakfast

9:00-10:00 AM: Research Design 3

"Do voters reward policy? Evidence from a public-private partnership in education in Liberia"
Wayne Sandholtz, USC

10:00-11:00 AM: Research Design 4

"State versus Syndicate: Civilian Compliance in Lagos's Contested Territory"
Andrew Miller, MIT

11:00-11:30 AM: Coffee break

11:30-12:30 PM: Research Design 5

"Getting Ahead Collectively: Using Positive Psychology to Improve Civic Engagement"
Felix Hartmann, University of Gothenburg

12:30-1:30 PM: Lunch

2:30 PM: Afternoon and evening program to show Abu Dhabi:

- Desert tour
- Meet at 3pm at Welcome Center
- Return around 10pm, dinner included

Sunday 8 January: WGAPE Papers

Location: Conference Center, Building A6, Room 005

8:30-9:00 AM: Registration and Breakfast

9:30-10:30 AM: Paper 4

"On the Legacies of Wartime Governance"
Wolfgang Stojetz, Humboldt Graduate School

10:30-11:30 AM: Paper 5

"Local Government, Sanctioning and the Costs of Defecting From the Dominant Party in Tanzania"
Rachael McLellan, Princeton University

11:30 AM-12:00 PM: Coffee & Refreshments

12:00-1:00 PM: Paper 6

"Civic Education in Violent Elections: Evidence from Côte d'Ivoire's 2015 Election"
Manuela Travagianti, UC Berkeley

1:00-2:00 PM: Lunch

2:00-3:00 PM: Paper 7

"Do anti-poverty programs sway voters? Experimental evidence from Uganda"
Mathilde Emeriau

3:00-3:15 PM: Coffee & Refreshments

3:15-4:15 PM: Paper 8

"A Market Equilibrium Approach to Reduce the Incidence of Vote-Buying: Evidence from Uganda"
Horacio Larreguy, Harvard University

4:30-6:00 PM: Next Steps –for Learning Day participants only

- Final feedback on Learning Days and WGAPE workshop
- Planning follow-up: how will we all continue to communicate and support each other after today?

6:30 PM: Dinner

Location: B1 Lounge

Additional Practical Things

Passport Information

- Please note that you will need a valid passport to travel to Abu Dhabi and it must be valid for at least 6 months beyond your return date.

Nirvana Contact Information

If you encounter any issues during your travels, please feel free to contact Nirvana. They are available 24 hours, 7 days a week:

- Non-emergency related questions: nyuad@ntravel.ae
- UAE Local Number: 02-6287250
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NYU Abu Dhabi Campus Map

