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Biases in recommendations to help students (#99285)

Created: 06/07/2022 12:28 AM (PT)

This is an anonymized copy (without author names) of the pre-registration. It was created by the author(s) to use during peer-review. A non-anonymized version (containing author names) should be made available by the authors when the work it supports is made public.

1) Have any data been collected for this study already?

No, no data have been collected for this study yet.

2) What's the main question being asked or hypothesis being tested in this study?

When professors are given the chance to recommend the best student for a beneficial opportunity for the student: Do they take the time to provide a recommendation? Conditional on recommending someone, is there a bias on the recommendations made in terms of the characteristics of the students (e.g., gender, social class, etc)? Are recommendations less biased when potential biases are made salient?

3) Describe the key dependent variable(s) specifying how they will be measured.

Main dependent variables:

1. Helping decision. Which professors help a student by providing a recommendation? How does the response rate vary when potential biases are made salient?
2. Recommendation decision. Conditional on making a recommendation (helping), who is being recommended?

4) How many and which conditions will participants be assigned to?

Professors will be exposed to only one of two conditions:

- Control: professors are asked to make a recommendation of a single student for the workshop
- Treatment: professors are asked to make a recommendation of a single student for the workshop and told to only focus on the student's academic merit and not on their gender, social class, etc.

5) Specify exactly which analyses you will conduct to examine the main question/hypothesis.

I estimate a linear probability regression for the helping decision as a function of the condition. In all regressions I include controls for the professors characteristics.

I also estimate a linear probability model for the recommendation choice (only for those professors who actually made a recommendation), as a function of the condition. In all regressions I include controls for the professors characteristics and the students' characteristics.

6) Describe exactly how outliers will be defined and handled, and your precise rule(s) for excluding observations.

We do not intend to exclude anyone from the analysis of the helping decision. For the recommendation choice, we will exclude anyone that did not make a recommendation.

7) How many observations will be collected or what will determine sample size? No need to justify decision, but be precise about exactly how the number will be determined.

800 professors: 400 per condition.

8) Anything else you would like to pre-register? (e.g., secondary analyses, variables collected for exploratory purposes, unusual analyses planned?)

Nothing else to pre-register.