Pre-Analysis Plan:
Title of the study*

Author’s name†

Date of latest draft

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*Acknowledgements and disclaimers.
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1 Introduction

1.1 Abstract

• In 1-2 sentences, what does the study entail?
• In 1-2 sentences, why is this study important/relevant?

1.2 Motivation

• What is the main problem/question motivating the study?
• How has this problem/question been addressed thus far?
• How is this study different from prior research on this problem/question?
• Why is the context that you have chosen for this study appropriate?

1.3 Research Questions

• What are the main research questions the study seeks to answer?

2 Research Strategy

2.1 Sampling

2.1.1 Sampling Frame

• What is the eligible population for the study?
  – What are the main characteristics of this population?
• What is the expected sample for the study?
  – What is the expected sample size?
  – How does the expected sample differ from the population?
2.1.2 Statistical Power

• What is the effect size you will be able to detect?
  – What are your assumptions about your alpha-level?
  – What are your assumptions about your statistical power?
  – What are your assumptions about variability in your effect size?
  – How many sites will you have?
  – How many people will you have in each site?
  – What share of the variance do you expect to predict with your covariates?

• How sensitive is your effect size to changes in your parameters?

2.1.3 Assignment to Treatment

• How will individuals be assigned to treatment and control conditions?

• What is the source of exogenous variation in your study?

2.1.4 Attrition from the Sample

• Do you anticipate any form of attrition from the sample?
  – If so, what share of the sample do you anticipate will attrit?
  – On what evidence are you basing your expectations about attrition?
  – How realistic are your expectations about attrition?

• What can you do anything to prevent/remedy sample attrition?

• How does expected attrition change your power calculations?

2.2 Fieldwork

2.2.1 Instruments

• What data collections instruments will you employ?
  – What (groups of) indicators will each instrument cover?
  – How was each instrument developed?
– Have each instrument been used before?
– If so, by whom? If not, are you piloting it?
– What are the main advantages/disadvantages of each instrument?

2.2.2 Data Collection

• How long will the entire data collection process take from start to finish?
• What does the data collection entail?
• What steps will be taken to keep the data collected confidential at this stage?

2.2.3 Data Processing

• How long will data processing take from start to finish?
• What does the data processing entail?
• What steps will be taken to keep the processed data confidential?
• Who has ownership over the processed data?
• How will the data be used/stored after the study at this stage?

3 Empirical Analysis

3.1 Variables

• What are the main variables of interest in your study?
  – How is each of them defined in your dataset?

3.2 Balancing Checks

• How will you check balance between treatment and control groups?
  – What is the specification that you will run?
  – What variables will you include in these balancing checks?
• How will you check balance between attritors and non-attritors?
What is the specification that you will run?
What variables will you include in these balancing checks?

3.3 Treatment Effects
3.3.1 Intent to Treat

• How will you estimate the (causal) effect of the offer of the treatment?
  – What is the specification that you will run?
  – What controls will you include in your specification?

3.3.2 Treatment on the Treated

• How will you estimate the (causal) effect of the receipt of the treatment?
  – What is the specification that you will run?
  – What controls will you include in your specification?

3.4 Heterogeneous Effects

• Which groups do you anticipate will display heterogeneous effects?

• What is the broad theory of action that leads you to anticipate these effects?

3.4.1 Intent to Treat

• How will you estimate the heterogeneous effects of the offer of the treatment?
  – What are the specifications that you will run?
  – What controls will you include in your specification?

3.4.2 Treatment on the Treated

• How will you estimate the heterogeneous effects of the receipt of the treatment?
  – What are the specifications that you will run?
  – What controls will you include in your specification?
3.5 Standard Error Adjustments

• How will you account for clustering in your data?

• How will you address false positives from multiple hypothesis testing?
  – If you plan to adjust your standard errors, what adjustment procedure will you use? (e.g., Family Wise Error Rate, False Discovery Rates, etc.)
  – If you plan to aggregate multiple variables into an index, which variables will you aggregate and how?
  – How will you deal with outcomes with limited variation?

4 Research Team

• Who are the principal investigators of this study?
  – What will each of these investigators do?

• Will there be any research assistants in this study?
  – If so, what will these research assistants do?

5 Deliverables

• What are the main products that will result from this study?

• Who will be the lead author(s) for each of these deliverables?

6 Calendar

• How long will the entire study take from start to finish?

• What are the different tasks/steps to be completed each week/month?
7 Budget

- What will each part of this study cost?
- What sources of funding do you anticipate?