

EGAP Plenary Meeting: Paris, France

October 28-29, 2024

DAY ONE

<i>Monday, October 28 (Sciences Po)</i>	
8:00-9:00	BREAKFAST
9:00-9:15	Welcome & opening remarks <i>Daniel Rubenson, Vin Arceneaux</i>
9:15-10:45	Plenary 1: Learning Days See Appendix A for a description and full list of panelists.
10:45-11:15	BREAK
11:15-12:15	Parallel breakout feedback sessions See Appendix B for abstracts. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. "Intergroup Contact and the Public-Private Gap" Laura Paler, American University. <i>Chair: Alex Coppock.</i> 2. "Field experiment on digital skills training in Catalonia." Aina Gallego, Universitat de Barcelona. <i>Chair: Ana De La O.</i> 3. "Do citizens support greater transparency in political finance? Evidence from South Africa" Sarah Brierley, LSE. <i>Chair: Juan Vargas.</i>
12:15-1:45	LUNCH
1:45-2:45	Parallel breakout feedback sessions See Appendix B for abstracts. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. "Expanding Access to Education in Afghanistan" Dana Burde, NYU. <i>Chair: Rebecca Wolfe.</i> 2. "RCT in Colombia to reduce kickbacks to political donors via public contracts" Saad Gulzar, Princeton. <i>Chair: Pedro Vicente.</i> 3. "Family Politics: Household Incentives and Women's Political Participation in rural India" Soledad Prillaman, Stanford University. <i>Chair: Thad Dunning.</i>
2:45-3:15	BREAK
3:15-4:15	Plenary 2: Research dissemination and experimental literacy in media and journalism See Appendix A for a description and full list of panelists.
4:30-5:30	Speed dating networking activity
5:30-7:00	RECEPTION at Sciences Po

DAY TWO

<i>Tuesday, October 29 (Sciences Po)</i>	
8:30-9:30	BREAKFAST
9:30-10:30	<p>Parallel breakout feedback sessions <i>See Appendix B for abstracts.</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. “An Experimental Evaluation of Hot Spot Policing in Brazil” Joana Monteiro, Brazilian School of Public and Business Administration. <i>Chair: Ryan Moore.</i> 2. “Reduce anti-immigrant attitudes and behaviors through listening to a podcast for 8 weeks” Kristin Michelitch, Toulouse School of Economics. <i>Chair: Yamil Velez.</i> 3. “Uncovering the Power of Cross-Ethnic Teacher Assignments: Insights from the Israeli Education System” Roni Porat, Hebrew University. <i>Chair: Betsy Levy Paluck.</i>
10:30-11:00	BREAK
11:00-12:00	<p>Parallel breakout feedback sessions <i>See Appendix B for abstracts.</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. “Economic Diversification, Gendered Anxiety, and Regime Stability in the Arabian Gulf” Amanda Clayton, UC Berkeley. <i>Chair: Mike Gilligan</i> 2. “Psychosocial model to promote caregiver mental health and early childhood development in communities exposed to conflict, forced displacement and migration, and other emergencies” Andrés Moya, Universidad de los Andes. <i>Chair: Annette Brown.</i> 3. “Return Intentions and Behavior: A Panel Study of Syrian Refugees in Lebanon” Ala Alrababah, Bocconi University. <i>Chair: Claire Adida.</i>
12:00-1:00	LUNCH
1:00-2:30	<p>Parallel breakout sessions <i>See Appendix A for a description and full list of panelists.</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Metaketa V 2. The SSRC Mercury Project: Health Ambassadors
2:30-2:45	BREAK
2:45-3:45	Plenary 3: Evolution of EGAP <i>See Appendix A for a description and full list of panelists.</i>
5:00-7:00	RECEPTION/policy event <i>Hosted by The Honourable Stéphane Dion, Canada’s Ambassador to France. See Appendix A for a description.</i>

Appendix A: Session descriptions

Plenary 1: Learning Days - Monday, October 28

EGAP holds 5-day intensive Learning Days workshops as part of our mission to build capacity in impact evaluations and strengthen experimental social science and policy evaluation research capacity in the Global South. EGAP's Trainings & Methods Co-Directors will lead a panel discussion with members of the Learning Days teaching team and past participants from Latin America and Africa discuss the history, impact, and future of the workshops.

Panel:

- Nahomi Ichino, Emory (Chair)
- Brice Bado, CERAP
- Jake Bowers, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
- Margarita Gómez, Southern Voice
- Santiago Tobón, Universidad EAFIT, Colombia
- Christelle Zozoungbo, Penn State University

Plenary 2: Research dissemination and experimental literacy in media and journalism - Monday, October 28

A panel of EGAP members and information literacy experts will explore different strategies to journalistic reporting on issues with a quantitative component. The discussion will look at what role the EGAP community can play in supporting effective and accurate evidence-based reporting in the face of mis and disinformation. Topics may include causal inference literacy, best practices for reporting, and the consequences for democracy, polarization, trust.

Panel:

- Julia Angwin, Proof News
- Cooper Gatewood, BBC Media Action
- Macartan Humphreys, WZB
- Daniel Rubenson, Toronto Metropolitan University

Parallel Breakout Session 1: Metaketa V - Tuesday, October 29

The Metaketa Initiative is EGAP's collaborative research model which aims to improve the accumulation of knowledge from field experiments on topics where academic researchers and policy practitioners share substantive interests. Metaketa V seeks to answer the question: "How can women be better mobilized to participate in consultative processes that would likely improve public services provision?" This session will be an interactive discussion with the committee, team members, and implementing partners focused on the implementation of the intervention, preliminary results and lessons learned.

Panel:

- Chairs: Alexander Coppock, Yale; Susan Hyde, UC Berkeley; Edmund Malesky, Duke
- Kyrgyzstan Team: Damir Esenaliev, ISDC; Elnura Kazakbaeva, Kyrgyzstan State Law Academy; Nadejda Dobretsova, Development Policy Institute
- Malawi Team: Amanda Clayton, UC Berkeley; Amanda Robinson, OSU; Loveness Soko, IPOR
- Nigeria Team: Katrina Kosec, CGIAR; Cecilia Mo, UC Berkeley; Vivian Efem-Bassey, ActionAid



- Pakistan Team: Mumtaz Mughal, Aurat Foundation; Solédad Artiz Prillaman, Stanford; Sarah Khan, American University
- Vietnam Team: Le Thuy Hanh, Oxfam Vietnam; Quynh Nguyen, Wyss Academy for Nature; Paul Joseph Schuler, University of Arizona

Parallel Breakout Session 2: The SSRC Mercury Project: Health Ambassadors- Tuesday, October 29

Representatives from the Health Ambassadors research consortium discuss their work looking at community interventions to promote trust in vaccination in sub-Saharan Africa. The project is testing the hypothesis that for the vaccine hesitant, unilateral information provision is inadequate, and that a more interactive approach to building trust in the health system will increase vaccine willingness. The consortium is an ambitious collaboration with the Nairobi-based Partnership for African Social and Governance Research (PASGR), Abidjan-based Centre de Recherche et d'Action pour la Paix (CERAP), Saint Louis (Senegal)-based Université Gaston-Berger; Harare-based Centre for Sexual Health and HIV/AIDS Research (CeSHHAR); Blantyre-based Kamuzu University of Health Sciences; and EGAP.

Panel:

- Paul Kawale, Kamuzu University of Health Sciences
- Maarten Voors, Wageningen University
- Mame Mor Anta Syll, University Gaston Berger of Saint-Louis

Plenary 3: Evolution of EGAP - Tuesday, October 29

A panel composed of current and past members of EGAP leadership will discuss the network's activities to date and map out potential future directions.

Panel:

- Morgan Holmes, USAID (Chair)
- Macartan Humphreys, WZB
- Susan Hyde, UC Berkeley
- Cyrus Samii, NYU
- Daniel Rubenson, TMU

RECEPTION/policy event - Tuesday, October 29

This event is hosted by The Honourable Stéphane Dion, Canada's Ambassador to France and will include short presentations on the topic of elections and polarization, including presentations from:

- Kevin (Vin) Arceneaux, Professor and Director of CEVIPOF, Sciences Po, Paris;
- Jessica Gottlieb, Associate Professor, University of Houston's Hobby School of Public Affairs and co-Director of the Democratic Erosion Consortium;
- Peter Loewen, Harold Tanner Dean of the College of Arts & Sciences and Professor, Government Department at Cornell University.

Appendix B: Feedback Session Abstracts

"Intergroup Contact and the Public-Private Gap" (Laura Paler, American University) - Monday, October 28

Positive contact among members of divided social groups offers one of the most promising strategies for mitigating intergroup prejudice and conflict. Yet, large literatures have overlooked the potential for both direct contact and indirect contact via the media—depending on the operative mechanisms—to have differential effects on attitudes and behaviors that are ‘public’ (visible to other ingroup members) versus ‘private’ (not visible to other ingroup members). Using an online experiment conducted with white Americans (n=1037), this paper tests the specific claim that indirect contact via the media that primarily changes personal beliefs about Black Americans—not perceived ingroup social norms—will have a bigger effect on ‘private’ attitudes and behaviors than on ‘public’ attitudes and behaviors for those facing high social costs. We test the differential effects of contact on private versus public *attitudes* using an experiment that varied the perceived visibility of post-treatment survey responses to an in-group enumerator; we investigate differential effects on private versus public *behavior* using survey measures of behavioral intentions and a novel behavioral outcome measure. Overall, we find that the contact treatment improved private attitudes and increased the willingness to take private action to support social change, unconditional on social costs. It also improved public attitudes and willingness to take public action for those facing low social costs. However, for those facing high social costs, the contact treatment had no effect on either attitudes or behaviors that were perceived to be visible to other ingroup members. Overall, these findings help clarify when contact can cause public and private outcomes—as well as attitudes and behaviors—to converge or diverge, with important implications for resolving discrepant findings in the literature, improving measurement strategies, and deepening understanding of the potential (and limits) of contact to affect change. Authors: Laura Paler and Kyle Gray

"Field experiment on digital skills training in Catalonia" (Aina Gallego, Universitat de Barcelona) - Monday, October 28

This session will discuss a field experiment on digital skills training in Catalonia: we are collaborating with a public occupational services provider to experimentally evaluate a digital skills training program addressed at women in rural areas in Catalonia. The presentation will include the pre-analysis plan and preliminary data from the baseline survey.

"Do citizens support greater transparency in political finance? Evidence from South Africa" (Sarah Brierley, LSE) - Monday, October 28

Increased transparency and stricter regulation of political finance have been shown to reduce corruption and enhance electoral competition. However, relatively little is known about what citizens think about and how they respond to enhanced transparency in political finance, especially within democracies in the Global South. We consider the case of South Africa, where the Political Party Funding Act (2018) transformed the country's political finance landscape. The Act deanonymized donors and capped donations for the first time. Using a nationwide survey of citizens (N=1,800) and several experimental methods, we assess citizens' attitudes to the main clauses of the legislation and whether they reward the incumbent party for introducing the reform. Our preliminary results show that while most citizens support the reform, they do not become more willing to support the incumbent. If anything, information about the reform has a negative effect on incumbent party vote choice. Our results imply that incumbents gain little from increasing transparency. Authors: Sarah Brierley, Daniel de Kadt.

"Expanding Access to Education in Afghanistan" (Dana Burde, NYU) - Monday, October 28

This study seeks to generate evidence in support of understanding the impact of promising community-driven interventions to provide access to broadcast education and complementary learning support services to out-of-school girls in Afghanistan, ages 13-18. Given the substantial number of out-of-school children across the country and the exclusion of girls from secondary school since August 2021, this work is critical to understanding the effects of nonstate efforts to provide distance learning via broadcast (television and radio) on access and learning for secondary school-age girls. NYU has been working with local implementing partners—an Afghan media company, Moby Media, and an NGO—since 2022 to design and evaluate the causal impact of Moby Media's broadcast education on access, learning, and social and emotional development for out-of-school girls in Afghanistan. In this paper we present preliminary findings from a multipronged, mixed method, randomized impact evaluation to understand the causal impact of providing five months of broadcast educational programming to girls in Afghanistan, testing (a) access to broadcast only, (b) access to broadcasts and encouragement to watch, and (c) access to broadcasts, encouragement to watch, and WhatsApp tutoring groups with Afghan women teachers.

"RCT in Colombia to reduce kickbacks to political donors via public contracts" (Saad Gulzar, Princeton) - Monday, October 28

This is a nationwide RCT in partnership with the international NGO Open Contracting Partnership (OCP), local NGOs, and government agencies in Colombia. The purpose of the RCT is to reduce kickbacks to political donors. The RCT launched in May 2024."

"Family Politics: Household Incentives and Women's Political Participation in rural India" (Soledad Prillaman, Stanford University) - Monday, October 28

How do women's networks shape and constrain their political participation? Decisions over women's political participation are often not their own. Men, particularly male family members, often wield substantial influence over women's political participation. When is it in men's interest to support women's political participation? We argue that men will support women's political participation when it benefits the household. To understand the conditions under which women participate and the role of the household and social relations in shaping that participation, we first conduct a census of all adult residents in 14 villages in rural Bihar, collecting detailed network data. We then randomly invite some households, informing only one person and providing them with redeemable voucher(s), to a public meeting. Randomly varying the gender of the invitee and the number of vouchers, we estimate the diffusion of invitations and valuable vouchers through men's and women's intra- and extra-household networks. Additionally, randomly varying the availability of a women-only meeting at the village level, we evaluate the role of social costs in shaping women's participation. We find that both household and social incentives have a large effect on women's participation in public meetings: women's participation in public meetings is responsive only to the number of incentive vouchers their household receives, not to their household receiving an invitation, suggesting that men support women's participation only when it brings material benefit to the household. Social incentives also matter: women's participation more than doubled with the availability of a women-only meeting. Our findings demonstrate the importance of social relations, particularly by defining the incentives to support women, in their public participation. Authors: Soledad Prillaman, Jonathan Phillips.

"An Experimental Evaluation of Hot Spot Policing in Brazil" (Joana Monteiro, Brazilian School of Public and Business Administration) - Tuesday, October 29

This project is the first experimental assessment of preventive patrolling in Brazil. We partnered with the Military Police of the state of Parana to design and test the effects of hot spots policing on robberies in Curitiba, the state capital. We carefully identified 422 hot spot street segments where 22 percent of robberies took place in Curitiba in 2022 and randomly assigned half of them to receive more police visits during weekdays. The experiment lasted three months and increased patrol time by 80 percent, from baseline level of 13 minutes. Treated segments experienced a reduction of 22 percent in robberies in public space on weekdays, with no impact on non-treated days. We also measured whether crime was displaced to segments within 200 meters from treatment and control segments and do not find evidence in that direction. We look at the impact on other crimes and measure an increase in thefts that is equivalent in size to the reduction in robberies. The military police were fully involved in the experimental design and carefully executed the intervention. We are waiting for more data to understand what happened to patrol time and crime levels after the intervention, as well as to better understand the results on thefts. We are also discussing with the police another intervention to improve crime analysis carried out in police units.

"Reduce anti-immigrant attitudes and behaviors through listening to a podcast for 8 weeks" (Kristin Michelitch, Toulouse School of Economics) - Tuesday, October 29

The general research objective is to reduce anti-immigrant attitudes and behaviors through listening to a podcast for 8 weeks (once weekly for 30-45 min), whereby podcasts would be randomly assigned to evaluate different approaches to reducing bias. I would aim to potentially get contextual variation that would be theoretically driven.

"Uncovering the Power of Cross-Ethnic Teacher Assignments: Insights from the Israeli Education System" (Roni Porat, Hebrew University) - Tuesday, October 29

Prejudice and discrimination stemming from ethnic conflicts are prevalent concerns in Israel and worldwide. Various educational policies have attempted to mitigate these tendencies by fostering contact between opposing groups. However, causal evidence on the effects of assigning teachers from one group to schools of the other group, are scant. In this project, we focus on Israel, where the schools of Jews and Arabs are completely segregated, to examine the effects of exposure to outgroup teachers.

Specifically, we will study the effect of assigning Arab teachers to schools in the Jewish sector on a broad range of educational outcomes and school environment indicators. These outcomes encompass attitudes, behaviors, school climate, and academic achievements of students. We will combine administrative data from the Ministry of Education, assessment tests, and data collected using surveys and experiments in the classroom, before and after the placement of the Arab teacher, and compare these data to classes without an Arab teacher. Our research will provide causal evidence for the effect of outgroup teachers on ingroup prejudice and achievements. Our findings will inform policymakers and educators in regions affected by conflict, as well as scholars in education, political science, psychology, and economics. Stage of project: pilot data collection.

“Gender and Resistance to Decarbonization in the Arabian Gulf” (Amanda Clayton, UC Berkeley) - Tuesday, October 29

To prepare for the global energy transition, most Gulf countries have published ambitious plans to move their economies away from the oil industry. Yet, these plans are publicly controversial in part because they may upend traditional gender relations in the region. Oil-rich nations have the worst track records globally for women’s rights. Women’s labor force participation is low in these countries because oil crowds out jobs that have historically employed women and have served as pathways for women’s economic, political, and social empowerment. In this project, we are interested in gendered reactions to decarbonization, using the case of oil-rich Kuwait. In brief, we plan to develop a short factual video that describes the need to diversify Gulf economies, both to prevent climate catastrophe and to prepare for the global energy transition. The video will then outline how experts believe these changes will affect other features of the economy, such as women’s labor force participation and government subsidies. We then plan to use closed- and open-ended reactions to these videos to explore the following questions: (1) How supportive are Kuwaitis in general of plans to move the economy away from oil production? (2) How frequent are “gender anxieties” – i.e., concerns that decarbonization will challenge existing gender hierarchies? (3) Are there significant differences in Kuwaiti men’s and women’s reactions? (4) What is the relationship between support for diversification and support for the Kuwaiti regime? (5) What is the relationship between support for diversification and concerns about climate change? Authors: Sarah Bush (University of Pennsylvania) and Amanda Clayton (UC Berkeley).

“Psychosocial model to promote caregiver mental health and early childhood development in communities exposed to conflict, forced displacement and migration, and other emergencies” (Andrés Moya, Universidad de los Andes) - Tuesday, October 29

This session will focus on the pre-analysis plan for an at-scale impact evaluation of a psychosocial model to promote caregiver mental health and early childhood development in communities exposed to conflict, forced displacement and migration, and other emergencies. The program was already evaluated at a smaller scale. We are now implementing the program at a larger scale and plan to conduct the impact evaluation starting in March 2025, analyzing whether we maintain the impact on the core outcomes at a larger scale, or whether we observe 'voltage drops'. We also plan to analyze additional questions, particularly related to spillovers on mental health stigma, social cohesion, and parenting and gender norms.

“Return Intentions and Behavior: A Panel Study of Syrian Refugees in Lebanon” (Ala Alrababah, Bocconi University) - Tuesday, October 29

Recent research on the return of forcibly displaced populations has largely focused on return intentions, often using cross-sectional data that fails to capture actual return behavior. Additionally, studies on return behavior tend to rely on aggregate data, overlooking microlevel factors that may influence return decisions. This paper addresses these issues by using a 5-year panel study of 3,000 Syrian refugees in Lebanon, along with a survey experiment, to explore what drives return behavior and when intentions translate into actual behavior. Our findings highlight the importance of improved expectations about safety conditions in motivating return, yet we observe a weak correlation between intentions and actual returns. We argue for the importance of information--especially how confident refugees are in the information they receive about safety in Syria. Refugees who have high confidence in this information are



more likely to follow through on their intentions to return. Moreover, our survey experiment shows that credible information about safety has a strong impact on return intentions. Our study also reveals that safety involves not just the absence of violence, but also factors like stability, control over local areas, and the absence of coercive measures such as conscription. By combining long-term data with experimental results, this research improves our understanding of refugee return dynamics and has important implications for policymakers and humanitarian organizations working to support voluntary and dignified returns. Authors: Ala Alrababah (Bocconi University), with Daniel Masterson (UCSB), Marine Casalis (ETH Zurich), Dominik Hangartner (ETH Zurich) and Jeremy Weinstein (Harvard).