



# VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY

## CONFERENCE ON LABORATORY EXPERIMENTS IN POLITICAL SCIENCE Detailed Information about Experimental Labs

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**INSTITUTION: DUKE UNIVERSITY**  
**Author: John Aldrich**

**Brief Description of Lab**

Large and variable, because it is interdisciplinary.

**Software**

MediaLab, Direct RT, Qualtrix

**Hardware**

Yes (except perhaps locked laptops)

**Subject Pool Recruitment**

In Political Science, per se, from classes taught by faculty interested in complying with our request, with compensation via optional extra credit. The DIISP lab (also available, which is where all the cool equipment is, including the mobile lab) has a paid subject lab with grants for grad students. SONA is used to manage the subject pool.

**Subject Pool Characteristics**

Political Science -- same as Duke undergrads, mostly Democratic and liberal, but with a good mix of others.

**Lab Staffing**

Begging from those with money (fortunately, I am usually one of them).

**Lab Website:** Yes: [duke.edu/web/psrp](http://duke.edu/web/psrp) (see also DIISP at [ssri.duke.edu](http://ssri.duke.edu))

**INSTITUTION: FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY**  
**Author: John Barry Ryan**

**Brief Description of Lab**

There are two labs at FSU. Jenn Jerit and Jason Barabas could tell you more about the Pepper Center lab--which I have used as well. I am primarily associated with the xs/fs lab which is part of a cluster shared by Political Science, Economics, and Accounting. There are 24 networked computer terminals in the lab and a monitor in an adjacent room. It is typically used for experiments in the economics tradition and is used by faculty and graduate students in the three departments mentioned above--though, the majority of the time the space is used by a member of the Economics department.

**Software**

zTree--Zurich Toolbox for Readymade Economic Experiments

**Hardware**

PC Desktops.

**Subject Pool Recruitment**

Subjects are recruited in social science classes to join the subject pool. The day before the experiment an email is sent out to a randomly selected portion of the subject pool--there are thousands of students who have signed up to participate--and the software sends the emails out until the sessions fill up. As part of using the lab, all investigators agree to pay a \$10 show up fee.

**Subject Pool Characteristics**

In a session of 20 subjects, the subjects would likely be 15 white 2 African-American 2 Asian 1 Hispanic. Fairly mixed politically with probably a few more libertarians than you would typically see.

**Lab Staffing**

There is a grad student who handles recruiting paid on an NSF grant. Running the sessions are the responsibility of the researchers.

**Lab Website:** <http://xsfs.fsu.edu/>

**INSTITUTION: FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY**  
**Author: Jennifer Jerit**

**Brief Description of Lab**

One of the two labs at FSU is devoted to political science experiments (so, deception is permitted and most projects do not pay for performance). There is a separate lab for economics-style experiments. Our facility is a computer room with 15 machines. We have privacy screens and (optional) dividers for the work stations.

**Software**

Media Lab, Direct RT, maybe Qualtrics in the future

**Hardware**

PC

**Subject Pool Recruitment**

Various methods depending on the study: students from undergraduate classes (with extra credit inducement), campus staff, or local residents (with a financial inducement to participate...either fixed payment or drawing for cash prizes)

**Subject Pool Characteristics**

Leon County, Florida, where Tallahassee is located, is about 30% Black and 2-1 Democratic vs. Republican. FSU has more female students than males, which reflects prior history as a college for women.

**Lab Staffing**

Graduate students (and sometimes faculty members) from the Political Science Department. I run the lab, so I am involved in most studies in some capacity. We have a part time IT person who maintains the lab.

**Lab Website:** We have web-based appointment system linked off of the main department page

**INSTITUTION: HARVARD UNIVERSITY**  
**Author: Dustin Tingley**

**Brief Description of Lab**

<http://decisionlab.harvard.edu/> 36 stations no deception psychology, economics, poli sci  
interactive and non-interactive experiments, bio feedback gear (e.g., skin conductance)

**Software**

multistage, qualtrics, biolab

**Hardware**

see above. they have tons

**Subject Pool Recruitment**

flyers, then emails for sessions, \$10 show up + earnings

**Subject Pool Characteristics**

More liberal than conservative. Pretty broad.

**Lab Staffing**

See website above.

**Lab Website:** <http://decisionlab.harvard.edu>

**INSTITUTION: INDIANA UNIVERSITY**  
**Author: Yanna Krupnikov**

**Brief Description of Lab**

My lab has 5 stations. The only person who uses this lab is me -- though this is only because I'm currently the only person running lab experiments. However, given that IU is launching a subject pool in the Fall 2011 semester, I am hoping to open the lab up to graduate students who would like to use it. I should note, though, that a large number of studies using the subject pool will be conducted online.

**Software**

MediaLab, Qualtrics

**Hardware**

PC desktops.

**Subject Pool Recruitment**

The Political Science department at IU is launching a subject pool in the fall semester. Students will earn 1 course credit (added to the total # of credits needed to graduate) for participating in several experiments over the course of the semester.

**Subject Pool Characteristics**

Early, exploratory research shows that the pool leans slightly more conservative and heavily white.

**Lab Staffing**

We have not needed staffing, as we haven't had a subject pool. In the Fall, the graduate students will staff the lab when they need to run their studies, and I am hoping to have an undergraduate assistant as well.

**Lab Website:** not yet!

**INSTITUTION: JACKSON STATE UNIVERSITY**  
**Author: B. D'Andra Orey**

**Brief Description of Lab**

Currently we have access to two computer labs that house approximately 25 computers. We also have approximately 13 lap top computers that we use for a mobile lab. Typically, we request that instructors from the College of Liberal Arts allow their students to come to the lab on designated days in exchange for extra credit points. Currently, only the Political Science Department is involved in constructing research designs.

**Software**

We have been using Inquist and have Media Lab, but haven't used it yet.

**Hardware**

Desktop computers and laptops.

**Subject Pool Recruitment**

We ask that instructors offer extra credit points to their students. Alternative extra credit opportunities have to be offered to students who do not want to participate.

**Subject Pool Characteristics**

our subject pool is overwhelmingly black, democrat and moderate (given the social conservative attitudes of southern blacks).

**Lab Staffing**

There are two of us that typically administer the surveys. This is changing as we are trying to include more students in our projects.

**Lab Website:** no

**INSTITUTION: MIT**  
**Author: Adam Berinsky**

**Brief Description of Lab**

We have access to a 10 station lab. Each of the computers has medialab and is wired to the internet. We also have focus groups rooms. the lab is used by economists and business school faculty. Subject recruitment is centralized and the lab is managed by a post-doc at the business school. Political science has access to the lab and we are not directly charged for its use.

**Software**

medialab and qualtrics

**Hardware**

Macs running windows. there is talk of getting physiological equipment, but none presently.

**Subject Pool Recruitment**

We recruit through a central database. Subjects are typically paid \$8 per half hour of time (advertised, not actual time)

**Subject Pool Characteristics**

Like cambridge, pretty liberal. race is somewhat mixed

**Lab Staffing**

With 2 grad student supervisors and 2-3 undergrads.

**Lab Website:** No

**INSTITUTION: RUTGERS UNIVERSITY**  
**Author: Rick Lau**

**Brief Description of Lab**

21 computer stations, plus a server, set up with phone lines and CATI software so the lab can also be used as a calling center. Used by (so far, just my) graduate students to run experiments, but hopefully use will expand to all grad students and even some faculty. Also used by Dave Redlawsk's students to do surveys -- 4-6 weeks out of the year.

**Software**

DPTE, WINCATI, ZTREE, also have one of the major psychology programs but I forget its name

**Hardware**

Dell PCs, plus 3 laptops to go mobile which I forgot to mention above.

**Subject Pool Recruitment**

Recruit students from classes, often as a required class activity; or sometimes compensate students with extra credit. email lists (Rutgers staff, Rutgers students, Craig's List). Contact local organizations that raise money, such as PTAs. Compensated with \$\$\$, or sometimes class credit. And of course my eternal gratitude.

**Subject Pool Characteristics**

students are diverse -- maybe 60% white, 5-10% black, 5-10% Latino, 20+% Asian (many Indian) Maybe 5% Muslim students

**Lab Staffing**

Graduate students who use it coordinate now. Next year will have a little money to hire someone to officially coordinate and manage the activities.

**Lab Website:** No -- but that is a good idea

**INSTITUTION: UC DAVIS**  
**Author: Cheryl Boudreau**

**Brief Description of Lab**

We have three labs with computer terminals that are separated by partitions. Two of the labs are right next door to each other and are often used together for one experiment. There are a total of 25 computers (9 in one room, 9 in another room, and 7 in another room). The 18 computer terminals in the first two labs are designated as 'non-deception' labs.

**Software**

Media Lab and Direct RT

**Hardware**

We have desktop PCs.

**Subject Pool Recruitment**

We recruit our subject pool from political science professors' classes. In exchange, subjects receive extra credit in the class they were recruited from. Several faculty members also conduct economic-style experiments where subjects receive cash payments in addition to (or instead of) extra credit.

**Subject Pool Characteristics**

Our subject pool is quite liberal. Most subjects identify with the Democratic Party. Subjects are predominantly white or Asian, although there are a fair number of Hispanic/Latino subjects. We have very few African American or Native American subjects.

**Lab Staffing**

Faculty members who are running experiments typically hire graduate student RAs to administer their experiments in the labs.

**Lab Website:** No

**INSTITUTION: UC DAVIS**  
**Author: Robert Huckfeldt**

**Brief Description of Lab**

4 labs with approximately 64 stations, in addition to off-site lab facilities that can be scheduled. It is used to study groups and individuals in decision-making and communication. The labs are used by graduate students and faculty in political science, and sometimes by colleagues in other departments.

**Software**

I mostly use ztree.

**Hardware**

networked PC desktops.

**Subject Pool Recruitment**

Our subjects are almost entirely generated through political science courses. Some are required to participate by their professors. Others receive extra credit. And some receive monetary incentives -- a show-up payment plus performance based incentives

**Subject Pool Characteristics**

Ethnically mixed with relatively liberal and Democratic political orientations.

**Lab Staffing**

mostly grad students who are involved in studies.

**Lab Website:** no

**INSTITUTION: UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT**  
**Author: Thomas Craemer**

**Brief Description of Lab**

Prof. D'Andra Orey and I have collaborated in the recruitment of student participants primarily from Historically Black Colleges and Universities administering experiments in a decentralized way online. Students can use computers at their respective institutions or their home computers to participate. The data collection software we use is Inquisit (by Millisecond.com) which allows precise reaction time measurement over the internet. The software temporarily takes over the task prioritizing functions on the user's computer so that reaction time measurements are free from distortions due to any background processes going on at the same time.

**Software**

Inquisit

**Hardware**

Inquisit requires that the user have a Windows based computer (to which the user has administrative rights) and an internet connection.

**Subject Pool Recruitment**

Dependent on the instructor, students receive extra credit. Prof. D'Andra Orey can provide more detailed information on recruitment.

**Subject Pool Characteristics**

Predominantly (but not exclusively) African American. This is a function of the institutions that have participated so far (mostly HBCUs, some non-HBCUs). The concept could easily be extended to include subjects of any racial, ethnic, or national background.

**Lab Staffing**

Not a tall.

**Lab Website:** The website changes from experiment to experiment and is hosted by Inquisit.com

**INSTITUTION: UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN**  
**Author: Nick Valentino**

**Brief Description of Lab**

3 rooms with 12 stations each. 1 mac lab, two PC. We also have 8 individual interviewing rooms that are networked and monitored and have eye tracking capability. We have a naturalistic living room setting with camera monitoring. We have a focus group room with camera monitoring. We have a movie screening room for large groups.

**Software**

Media lab, stat lab

**Hardware**

Mac and PC labs. Building out the phys data collection peripherals, including skin conductance and eye tracking.

**Subject Pool Recruitment**

Undergraduate subject pool in Comm Studies, drawn from intro class (intro to media effects, Comm 102). 150 subjects per semester, 5 hour requirement for each student.

**Subject Pool Characteristics**

White liberal women= 65%. White moderate men=15%. Remaining are mostly Asian women, with a small percentage of African American and Latino students.

**Lab Staffing**

RA's

**Lab Website:** A colleague maintains one: <http://cn.isr.umich.edu/>

**INSTITUTION: UT-AUSTIN**  
**Author: Tasha Philpot**

**Brief Description of Lab**

The lab has about 15 stations that are utilized by graduate students and faculty in the Government Department.

**Software**

MediaLab, DirectRT

**Hardware**

PC desktops

**Subject Pool Recruitment**

Subject are recruited from introductory American Government courses in exchange for extra credit.

**Subject Pool Characteristics**

Predominantly white, with a even distribution of ideology and party identification.

**Lab Staffing**

Part-time RA.

**Lab Website:**

**INSTITUTION: VANDERBILT**  
**Author: Cindy Kam**

**Brief Description of Lab**

We have 10 stations that are used once each semester by omnibus teams that include faculty and graduate students.

**Software**

Inquisit

**Hardware**

Docked laptops

**Subject Pool Recruitment**

We recruit from polisci (and sometimes other) courses every semester. Students get extra credit in exchange for participation.

**Subject Pool Characteristics**

75% white; the remainder is a mix of black/Asian/Hispanic 40% Dem, 30%Rep, 30%Ind 50/50 on sex

**Lab Staffing**

One graduate student is the programmer for the lab and is in charge of anything computer-related (including our online sign-up sheet and electronic sign-in procedure). Typically we appoint a Study Manager (graduate student PI, or postdoc, or faculty member) who coordinates the undergrad and grad RAs who administer the studies.

**Lab Website:** <http://www.vanderbilt.edu/rips>