



**AFEPA Workshop**  
**Louvain-la-Neuve, Belgium, July 19-23, 2016**

**Field Experiments to Inform Policy and Programs in  
Development Economics**

Professor Nicholas Magnan, University of Georgia

This workshop will introduce students to experimental methods in economics. The course will cover both “laboratory in the field” type experiments and randomized control trials, with an emphasis on the latter. The course will also address natural experiments and quasi-experimental design.

**Topics covered include:**

- I. Lab experiments in the field to learn about economic behavior
  - a. Using small experiments to gain big insights
  - b. How much framing is the right amount?
  - c. Comparing behavior in experiments to behavior in life
  - d. Experimental auctions to learn about demand and valuation
  
- II. Randomized control trials (RCTs)
  - a. The selection problem and how RCTs solve it
  - b. Identifying and working with implementing partners
  - c. Randomization strategies (oversubscription, random phase-in, random incentives)
  - d. Level of randomization: practical and statistical implications
  - e. Power calculations and sample size
  - f. Stratification
  - g. RCT ethics and criticism
  
- III. Approaching the experimental ideal with natural experiments and quasi-experimental methods
  - a. Identifying and exploiting natural experiments
  - b. Leveraging exogeneity through quasi-experimental methods
  - c. How do non-experimental methods stack up to RCTs?

**Instructor:** Dr. Nick Magnan is an agricultural and international development economist in the Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics at the University of Georgia (UGA). Nick’s research focuses on how external and behavioral factors affect agricultural technology adoption and other investments in developing countries. He primarily uses experimental methods in his research. Prior to joining UGA he was a research fellow at the International Food Policy Institute (IFPRI) and a consultant for the World Bank. He received his Ph.D. in Agricultural and Resource Economics from the University of California-Davis in 2010.

**Pre-requisite:** Intermediate micro-economics and econometrics

**Time schedule:** Tuesday, July 19 – Friday, July 22: 9am – 5pm; Saturday July 23: 9am – 12am (evaluation test)

**More information:** AFEPA European Master [master-afepa@uclouvain.be](mailto:master-afepa@uclouvain.be)

**Application to the workshop:** In addition to the students currently studying in their AFEPA Master's programme, this workshop is open to another ten graduate students for an administrative fee of €122. This fee does not include travel, food and lodging.

Interested students who meet the pre-requisite in intermediate micro-economics and econometrics and are fluent in English are invited to submit their application with an attached zip file named "AFEPA workshop [last name]" containing a short CV and all their university transcripts to [master-afepa@uclouvain.be](mailto:master-afepa@uclouvain.be) by May 31, 2016. Their admission will be announced by June 13 and the €122 fee will have to be paid by June 24 in order to reserve a place in the workshop. All admitted students will have to take the evaluation test planned on Saturday morning. A certificate of attendance will only be delivered if all elements of the workshop were completed.