



THE UNIVERSITY OF
CHICAGO

DEPARTMENT OF STATISTICS

Statistics Colloquium

MOLLY OFFER-WESTORT

Department of Political Science
University of Chicago

“Design of adaptive experiments for policy learning and evaluation”

MONDAY, APRIL 03, 2023, at 4:30 PM

Jones 303, 5747 S. Ellis Avenue

Refreshments before the seminar at 4:00 PM in Jones 303.

ABSTRACT

When running multi-arm trials, experimenters may wish to both learn and evaluate data-driven policies; for example, learning which version of treatment is most effective and evaluating the effect of that treatment in comparison to a control condition. Response adaptive algorithms, which dynamically update treatment assignment mechanisms based on observed response, facilitate experimental designs where the most data is collected about the most effective interventions, and can improve policy learning over conventional randomized trials. I discuss design decisions for policy learning and evaluation when running adaptive experiments, and considerations for off-policy evaluation. I review an application with a Facebook Messenger study on interventions to curb misinformation in Kenya and Nigeria.