

EGAP Meeting Minutes
October 16-17, 2009
Hosted by CSDS, Columbia University

The business meeting was chaired by the current steering committee: Don Green, Macartan Humphreys and Devra Moehler.

MEMBERSHIP

A proposal was adopted by unanimous agreement to increase the membership of EGAP to at most 50 members including at most 40 academic members and at most 15 practitioner members. No changes were made to the procedures for admitting new members. The Steering Committee will probably issue a public call and select new members before the next meeting.

PEER REVIEW (Peer Review Committee: Jennifer Merrolla, Elizabeth Levy Paluck, Ana De La O)

The peer review committee will manually manage the submissions and distribution of experimental protocols for peer review for the time being rather than through the website. Dropbox may be used to facilitate coordination. In addition, the peer review committee will maintain an excel spreadsheet on submissions and reviews completed per member. The spreadsheet will be available to members through the website. Members are expected to self-regulate submissions so that the number of submissions made by each member is roughly equal to half the number reviews completed by each member (assuming that each submission receives two reviews). Experimental protocol submissions are expected to follow the format of the experiment registration/consort document.

WEBSITE (Website Committee: Chris Blattman and Catherine Eckel)

Chris provided a set of options and recommendations. After much discussion of each point it was decided that Chris and Catherine should note the general recommendations from the group and make specific decisions as needed. The key topics of discussion and group recommendations were as follows:

1. **Ambition/scope:** Given current resources, members favored a stripped down utilitarian website for coordinating the group rather than a more extensive and polished publicity oriented site.
2. **Expected content:** Overview of EGAP; very brief bios of members with links to private web pages; meeting information, papers, and forms; RSS newsfeed for announcements; links to external resources; form for registering experiments; archive of registered experiments; EGAP charter; and contact information for non-members interested in EGAP.
3. **Access:** Members favored restricted member access to meeting papers; peer review submissions and reviews; and registered experiments. Other material would be public.
4. **Control:** Authorship will be limited to the steering committee and the web committee
5. **Production:** A web professional will be employed to set up the site.
6. **Meeting management:** Meeting hosts will manage and update the site for each meeting.
7. **Technology.** Wordpress will serve as the main platform. The website will be hosted by a private organization.
8. **URL:** www.e-gap.org
9. **Estimated budget:** Production cost of a basic website (structure only, no content): \$750-\$1250; Production cost of content: \$500; Running cost of website (hosting and URL): \$300 per year

STANDARDS (Standards Committee: Alan Gerber, Peter John, Jake Bowers, David Torgerson, Macartan Humphreys)

There was extensive discussion of the draft EGAP charter. While general consensus was reached on most points full consensus was not yet reached on all items and no vote was taken on adoption. The standards committee will present a revised draft for adoption at a later date. The draft consort / registration form for the EGAP group received positive reviews. Modest revisions are also expected based on feedback.

NEXT MEETINGS

The upcoming meeting in Spring 2010 will be hosted by Pedro Vicente at Trinity College Dublin. The date is still to be determined, but will probably take place in late April or early May.

Proposals were requested for the meeting in Fall 2010. Members expressed interest in holding the meeting in Washington DC in hopes of encouraging more practitioners to attend. Chris Blattman offered to check with Center for Global Development to see if they would be willing to host. Craig McIntosh offered to inquire about UCDC as a backup.

COMMITTEES

The steering committee in the run up to the next meeting at Trinity College Dublin is Macartan Humphreys (host of the last meeting), Pedro Vicente (host of the upcoming meeting) plus a third member still to be determined. There was a discussion about the desired term of the other standing committee members. There was agreement that two-year terms were desirable but that it was also desirable to stagger turnover of committee members. We will start the process of inviting self nominations for new committee members in Fall 2010 so that the first terms will be between 1.5 and 2.5 years and then two-year terms thereafter.

The committees remain as follows:

1. Peer Review: Jennifer Merrolla, Elizabeth Levy Paluck, Ana De La O
2. Web: Chris Blattman and Catherine Eckel
3. Standards: Alan Gerber, Peter John, Jake Bowers, David Torgerson, Macartan Humphreys