



The 8th Annual Conference on Digital Experimentation @ MIT

November 4-5, 2021, Virtual Conference

Organizers: Sinan Aral, Dean Eckles, John Horton, Alex (Sandy) Pentland

Sponsored in part by [The MIT Initiative on the Digital Economy](#)

The newly emerging capability to rapidly deploy and iterate micro-level, in-vivo, randomized experiments in complex social and economic settings at population scale is, in our view, one of the most significant innovations in modern social science. As more and more social interactions, behaviors, decisions, opinions and transactions are digitized and mediated by online platforms, our ability to quickly answer nuanced causal questions about the role of social behavior in population-level outcomes such as health, voting, political mobilization, consumer demand, information sharing, product rating and opinion aggregation is becoming unprecedented. This new toolkit portends a sea-change in our scientific understanding of human behavior and dramatic improvements in social and business policy as a result. When appropriately theorized and rigorously applied, randomized experiments are the gold standard of causal inference and a cornerstone of effective policy. But the scale and complexity of these experiments also create scientific and statistical challenges for design and inference. Different disciplines are approaching causal inference in contrasting, complementary ways. The purpose of the Conference on Digital Experimentation at MIT (CODE) is to bring together leading researchers conducting and analyzing large scale randomized experiments in digitally mediated social and economic environments, in various scientific disciplines including economics, computer science and sociology, in order to lay the foundation for ongoing relationships and to build a lasting multidisciplinary research community.

2020 Speakers

Susan Athey, Stanford
Graduate School of Business

Chris Bail, Duke University

Erik Brynjolfsson, Stanford
Digital Economy Lab

Lili Dworkin, Facebook

Erika Franklin Fowler,
Wesleyan Media Project

Brett R. Gordon, Kellogg
School of Management,
Northwestern University

Jillian Jordan, Harvard
Business School

Ronny Kohavi, Airbnb

Edward McFowland III,
University of Minnesota

Shannon McGregor,
University of North Carolina

Solomon Messing, ACRONYM

Katy Milkman, The Wharton
School, University of
Pennsylvania

Jeffrey Wong, Netflix

Abstract Submission

Participants will be selected based on submissions of *3-page extended abstracts*. **Please submit an extended abstract of no more than 3 pages to the [ONLINE PORTAL](#) by September 15, 2021** Please contact *Carrie Reynolds* (carrie1@mit.edu) *with questions*. Abstracts will be evaluated as they are submitted and evaluation will continue until the program is filled. Space is limited, so interested researchers should submit their work as soon as possible. Authors of accepted abstracts will be notified on September 30, 2021 and will be expected to submit a final version as a PDF not to exceed 5 pages, including references and figures, by **October 21, 2021**. Accepted abstracts will be distributed as informal working notes. Members of the press may attend the event, so please take this into account when choosing the work you submit.

Key Dates

Conference: November 4-5, 2021

Notification to Authors: September 30, 2021

Early Registration Deadline: October 4, 2021

Abstract Submission Deadline: September 15, 2021

Final Abstract Deadline (*Accepted Authors Only*): October 21, 2021

Online Registration Deadline: November 4, 2021