

Valedictory Randomised Controlled Trials in the Social Sciences Conference 20th and 21st May 2025

YORK MEDICAL SOCIETY, YORK



UNIVERSITY
of York



CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

Tuesday 20th May

9:15 - 9:45 am	Registration and Coffee
9:45 - 10:00 am	Opening remarks: Carole Torgerson including introduction to Invited Speaker Ben Styles
Session 1	Chair: Carole Torgerson
10:00 - 11:00 am	Invited Speaker: Ben Styles Experimental education research: clarifying why, how and when to use random assignment
11:00 - 11:15 am	Tea and Coffee
Session 2	Chair: Catherine Hewitt
11:15 - 12:30 pm	Trial by Algorithm: An Ethical Audit of AI RCTs in Criminal Justice <i>Peter T Darch</i> ChatGPT in Lesson Preparation: A Teacher Choices Trial <i>Palak Roy, Helen Poet, Ruth Staunton, Katherine Aston, and David Thomas</i> Conducting RCTs in Early Years Settings: What RCTs and pilot studies tell us about participant engagement <i>Erin Dysart, Louise Tracey, Aimee Code, and Nathan Archer</i> Integrating impact evaluations and implementation and process evaluations in mixed methods research in education <i>Louise Tracey and Carole Torgerson</i> Discussion
12:30 - 1:45 pm	Lunch

Session 3

Chair: Ben Styles

1:45- 2:45 pm

Department for Work and Pensions Universal Credit Work
Search Review Channels Trial
Angelo Valerio, Daniel Woodell, and Alison Cousley

Results from a randomized controlled pilot trial of a home-visiting intervention to reduce child maltreatment
Joakim Finne, Anne Grete Tøge, Kjersti Stabell Wiggen, Maria Ekre, Ira Malmberg-Heimonen, Maiken Pontoppidan, Jacinthe Dion, Truls Tømmerås, and Eirin Pedersen

A feasibility study and randomised controlled pilot trial of a multilingual support intervention for refugees
Anne Grete Tøge, Ira Malmberg-Heimonen, Susanne Søholt, and Sigridur Vilhjalmsdottir

Poverty and perseverance: Power of personal connection
Seemanti Ghosh

2:45 - 3:00 pm

Tea and Coffee

Session 4

Chair: Gerry Richardson

3:00 - 3:30 pm

Focused deterrence: crime prevention through carrot and stick a multi-site randomised controlled trial
Alex Sutherland

3:30 - 4:00 pm

NELI scale-up evaluation
Andrew Smith

4:00 - 4:05 pm

Short break

Session 5

Chair: David Torgerson

4:05 - 5:00 pm

Invited Speaker: Peter John
The practical challenges of delivering field trials: how to reduce hassle and costs

5:00 pm

Close

Conference Dinner: York Castle Museum

7:00 pm

Drinks Reception

7:45 pm

Dinner

Wednesday 21st May

9:00 - 9:30 am Tea and Coffee

Session 6 **Chair: Ben Styles**

9:30 - 10:30 am **Invited Speaker: Sheila Bird**
Platform for well-powered, well-chosen social science trials is NOW.

10:30 - 10:45 am Tea and Coffee

Session 7 **Chair: Caroline Fairhurst**

10:45 - 11:15 am Is it worth studying? The role of information on the school choice of foreign students in Italy. Results of a Randomized Controlled Trial (RCT)
Koray Aktas, Gianluca Argentin, Gian Paolo Barbetta, and Luca Colombo

11:15 - 11:45 am Evaluation of an Early Language intervention programme for nursery practitioners in Greater London: A two-armed cluster randomised waitlist-controlled trial with split cohorts
Xiaofei Qi, Victoria Menzies, Rachel Oughton, Nadia Siddiqui, Akansha Singh, and Laura Chambers

11:45 - 12:15 pm Promoting Parental Support of Early Child Language Development: An RCT to evaluate a text messaging service with BBC Tiny Happy People video content
Danielle Matthews et al

12:15 - 1:30 pm Lunch

Session 8 **Chair: David Torgerson**

1:30 - 2:00 pm Effects of a Matched Savings Program to Tackle School Dropout in Italy
Davide Azzolini

2:00 - 2:30 pm The role of biased teachers guidance in the reproduction of education inequalities. Evidence from an RCT combined with a factorial survey experiment
Gianluca Argentin and Elisa Manzella

2:30 - 3:00 pm Failure to replicate: Two trials of a parent and child early years reading programme. Where do we go from here?
Victoria Menzies and Helen Cramman

3:00 - 3:15 pm Closing Remarks - David Torgerson

3:15 pm Finish