

# In-person session 7

**October 4, 2021**

PMAP 8521: Program evaluation  
Andrew Young School of Policy Studies

# Plan for today

FAQs

RCTs

Matching and IPW

Sensitivity analysis

# FAQs

**Are there really studies linking PhD students and mozzarella cheese consumption?**

**No, but there's this website**

# Randomness

**How do we use random.org for things in R?**

# RCTs

# RCTs and ethics

**Do we really not control  
for things in an RCT?**



# Randomness and arrow deletion

# Balance tests





**Chelsea Parlett-Pelleriti**  
@ChelseaParlett



Trying to convince someone NOT to do t-tests to compare randomly assigned groups at baseline



**no context the good place** @nocontexttgp · Mar 10



1:04 PM · Mar 13, 2021 · Twitter for iPhone



**Chelsea Parlett-Pelleriti** @ChelseaParlett · Mar 13



THE RANDOMIZATION WORKED. RANDOMIZATION DOESN'T MEAN  
GROUPS WILL ALWAYS BE EQUAL



3



4



44



**Chelsea Parlett-Pelleriti**  
@ChelseaParlett



YOU DONT NEED A HYPOTHESIS TEST IF YOU KNOW  
THE DATA GENERATING PROCESS

1:18 PM · Mar 13, 2021 · Twitter for iPhone

# Matching and IPW

**Can you walk through an example of  
IPW and matching in class?**

**Why not just control for confounders  
instead of doing the whole  
matching/IPW dance?**



**Which should we use?  
Matching or IPW?**

**Are weights ever problematic?**

# Sensitivity analysis

**How do we know when we've got the right confounders in our DAG?**

**How do we solve the fact that we have so many unknowns in our DAG?**