

# Review of: "The Impact of Study Environment on Students' Academic Performance: An Experimental Research Study"

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Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

Though potentially interesting, the article has a fundamental methodological flaw: it does not control for individual heterogeneity. Hence, differences in performance between students due to noise are over-estimated. This is problematic as the real effect can include zero (or be negative). To control for this, the author could (1) have designed the experiment such that the treatment is given to the same person, and the effect of the treatment is identified by before/after measurement, (2) or identify the two subsamples using propensity score matching, (3) include other observed variables as controls AND test for unobserved heterogeneity through formal tests such as Oster (2019), implemented in Stata by the command `psacalc`.