

**audit study:** A study that examines racial and other forms of discrimination by sending matched pairs of individuals to apply for jobs, purchase a car, rent an apartment, and so on.

**cover story:** An introduction presented to research participants to obtain their cooperation while disguising the research hypothesis.

**double-blind experiment:** An experiment in which neither research participants nor research personnel know participants' treatment condition during the running of an experiment.

**external validity:** The extent to which experimental findings may be generalized to other settings, measurements, populations, and time periods.

**factorial design:** An experiment in which two or more variables (factors) are manipulated.

**field experiment:** An experiment conducted in a natural setting.

**history:** A threat to internal validity that refers to events other than the manipulation of the independent variable.

**internal validity:** Evidence that rules out the possibility that factors other than the manipulated independent variable are responsible for the measured outcome.

**laboratory experiment:** An experiment conducted in a controlled environment.

**manipulation check:** Procedure used to provide evidence that participants interpreted the manipulation of the independent variable in the way intended.

**maturation:** A threat to internal validity that refers to psychological or physiological changes taking place within participants.

**posttest-only control group design:** The most basic experimental design in which the dependent variable is measured after the experimental manipulation.

**pretest:** A trial run of an experiment or survey instrument to evaluate and rehearse study procedures and personnel.

**pretest-posttest control group design:** An experimental design in which the dependent variable is measured both before and after the experimental manipulation.

**random assignment:** The assignment of research participants to experimental conditions by means of a random device such as a coin toss.

**reactive measurement effect:** An effect in which participants' awareness of being studied produces changes in how they ordinary would respond.

**replication:** The repetition of a study using a different sample of participants and often involving different settings and methods.

**selection:** A threat to internal validity that is present whenever participants are not randomly assigned to experimental conditions.

**survey-based experiment:** An experiment embedded in a survey in which respondents are given different, randomly assigned versions of survey questions.

**threats to internal validity:** Types of extraneous variables that pose alternative explanations of an experimental outcome, thereby threatening the validity of the experimental manipulation.