



UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI
DI BRESCIA

Introduction to Research

Course for Ph.D. students
A.Y. 2018-19

4. Experiments, comparison, and... some practical issues

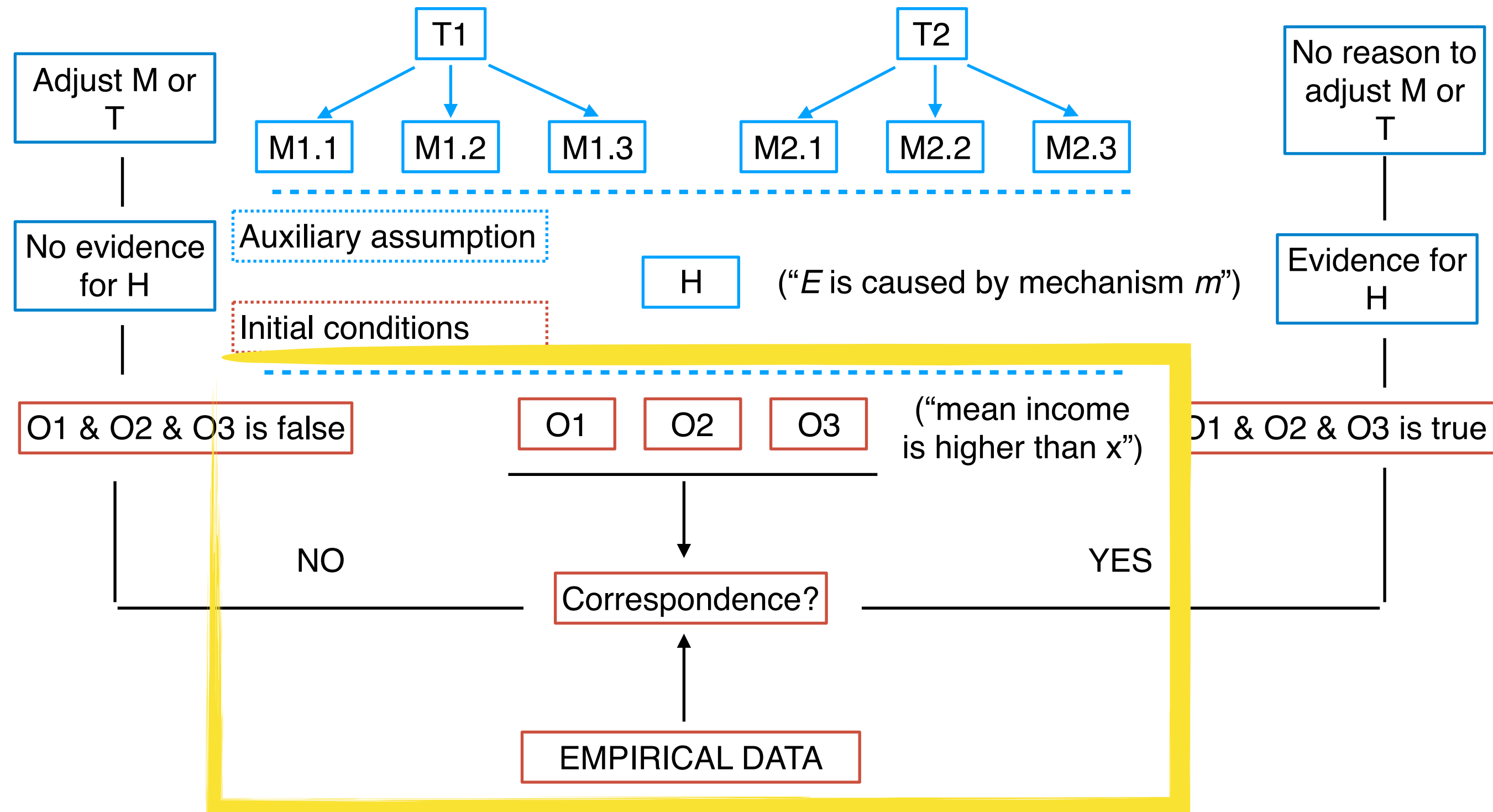
Federico Bianchi,
GECS - Research Group on Experimental and Computational Sociology,
Department of Economics and Management,
University of Brescia

federico.bianchi@unibs.it

<https://sites.google.com/view/federico-bianchi/>



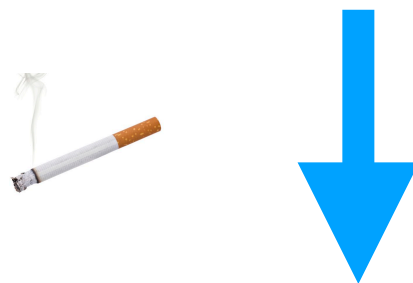
Research design



Experimental design: randomized controlled trial



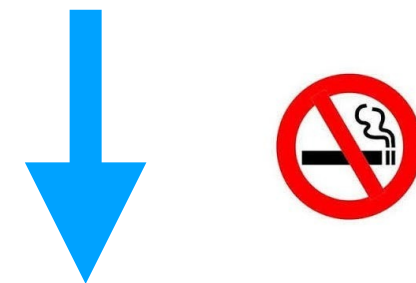
Random group of adolescents



Each one assigned to a group of
smokers
(TREATMENT)
(EXPERIMENTAL GROUP)



Random group of adolescents



Each one assigned to a group of
non-smokers
(NO TREATMENT)
(CONTROL GROUP)

Quasi-experiments



FIELD EXPERIMENT:

Students are assigned to classes with high or low proportion of smokers (*no control on confounding factors!*)

NATURAL EXPERIMENTS:

Due to some historical events or institutional/organizational decisions, a school is divided into classes with high and low number of smokers (*selection bias!*)



UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI
DI BRESCIA

Searching the literature

<https://scholar.google.it/>

Google Scholar

<https://www.unibs.it/biblioteche>



UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI
DI BRESCIA



UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI
DI BRESCIA

Other services

<https://orcid.org/my-orcid>

ORCID

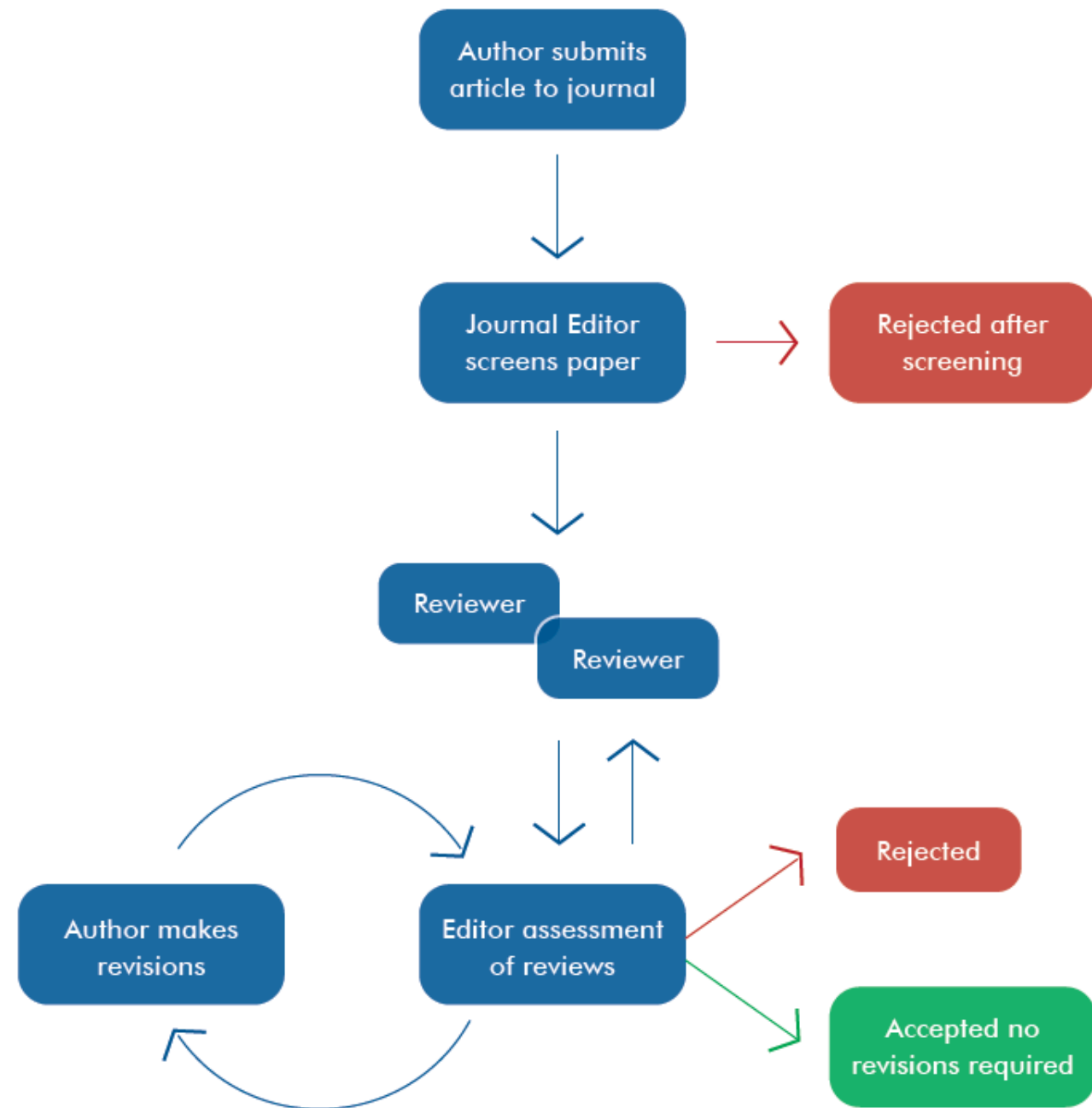
<https://www.researchgate.net/>

R^G

Peer review

REVIEWERS' RECOMMENDATION:

- Accept
- Revise and resubmit (R&R) / Major revision
- Minor revision
- Reject



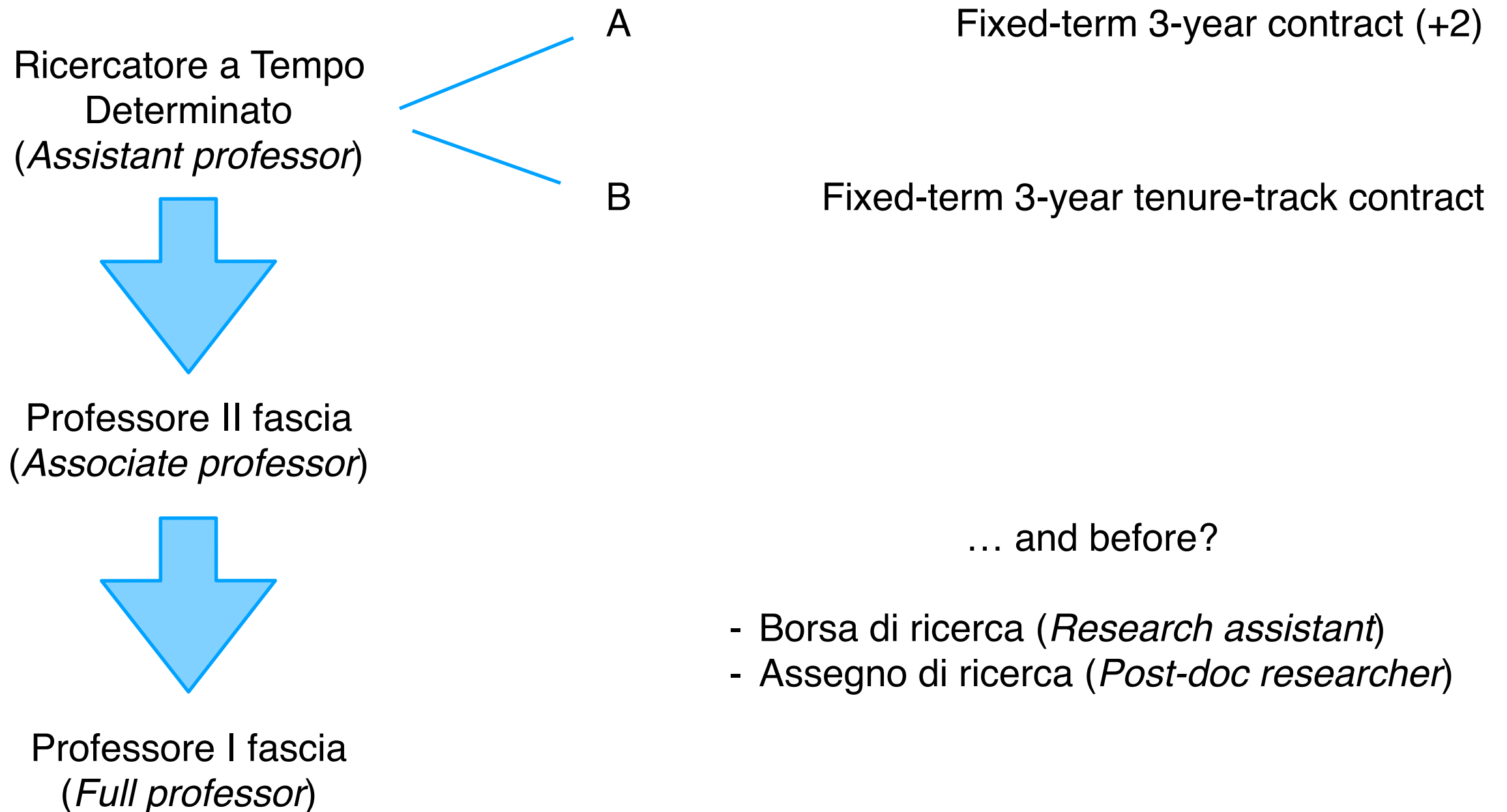
Peer review

- CLOSED PEER REVIEW
 - Single-blind peer review: reviewers' identities are not disclosed.
 - Double-blind peer review: authors' and reviewers' identities are not disclosed.
- OPEN PEER REVIEW: authors' and reviewers' identities are disclosed



UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI
DI BRESCIA

Italian academia





UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI
DI BRESCIA

Background reading

Bryman (2012), Chapter 3



UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI
DI BRESCIA

Exam

- Email with link to shared spreadsheet with 5 articles: set your preferences according to abstracts found in shared folder
- Tomorrow: communication of assignments
- Critical analysis of epistemological and methodological strategies of the reported study:
 - Research question
 - Causal explanation
 - Hypotheses
 - Theories used to derive hypotheses
 - Research design
- Concerning the research design, provide a critical analysis (e.g., what could have been a viable alternative?)
- Thursday, 4: 20-minute presentation + 10-minute discussion