Compilation of Best Practices Regarding Ten Major Methodological Issues with OPD

APPENDIX A

Recommendation	Rationale for	Cite(s) for	Empirical	Empirical	Disagreement or			
	Recommendation	Recommendation	Support for	Support Against	Issues with			
			Recommendation	Recommendation	Recommendation			
	Topic 1: Recruitment and Selection							
Post a "HIT" more than once and be sure to spread those HITs out across different times of the day or even days of the week	Acquire larger samples quicker Ensure HITs are completed by participants with different habits Pilot to make sure survey runs smooth	• Keith, Tay, & Harms (2017) • Paolacci & Chandler (2014)	Chilton, Horton, Miller, & Azenkot (2010)	• N/A	Releasing multiple batches increases chance of cross-talk on forums			
Only select workers who have completed relatively few (e.g., 0-100) studies	Reduce risk of non-naïveté	• Cheung et al. (2017) • Keith et al. (2017)	• N/A	• Peer et al (2014)	• Workers who have completed large number of studies might be preferred (Cheung et al., 2017)			
• When reputation information is available, restrict samples to "high reputation" workers (e.g., > 95% approval) and possibly higher number of completed studies	"Low reputation" workers produce worse data Beyond approval rate, the number of studies completed matters	• Goodman & Paolacci (2017) • Keith et al. (2017) • Peer et al. (2014)	• Peer et al. (2014)	• N/A	• May increase presence of "professional survey takers," limiting generalizability (Keith et al., 2017)			
Make use of built-in and user-designed qualification features	Reduce respondent deception Approximate target sample representativeness Prevent participation more than once	 Buhrmester et al. (2011) Chandler et al. (2014) Cheung et al. (2017) Goodman & Paolacci (2017) Keith et al. (2017) McGonagle (2015) Paolacci & Chandler (2014) Stritch et al. (2017) Woo et al. (2015) 	• Chandler et al. (2014)	• Sprouse (2011)	Use of qualifications may slow down recruitment			
Avoid qualification requirements not crucial to your research question	• Reduce potential range restriction	• Cheung et al. (2017)	• N/A	• N/A	• N/A			
Include eligibility requirements clearly in your recruitment advertisement	Allow participants to self-select based on desired criteria Avoid lost time, money, & irritation	• Lovett et al. (2018) • Stritch et al. (2017)	• N/A	 Chandler & Shapiro (2016) Peer et al. (2014) Sharpe Wessling, Huber, & Netzer (2017) 	Participants may lie about characteristics			
Design presurveys that do not give away participation requirements	Reduce demand characteristics	• Chandler et al. (2014) • Chandler & Shapiro (2016)	• Chandler & Shapiro (2016) • Peer et al. (2014)	• N/A	• N/A			

Describe research tasks generically at the outset	Prevent researchers from identifying subgroups of interests after results are known Avoid participants who misrepresent themselves Minimize risk of self-selection	 Cheung et al, (2017) Goodman & Paolacci (2017) Goritz (2007) Keith et al. (2017) McGonagle (2015) Shapiro, Chandler, & Mueller (2013) Smith et al. (2015) Wessling et al. (2017) Goodman & Paolacci (2017) McGonagle (2015) 	• N/A	• N/A	Could result in attrition if unaware of tasks
Initially provide some details of the experiment and approximately what participants will be doing	Minimize attrition	Horton, Rand, & Zeckhauser (2011)	• N/A	• N/A	 Too much information revealed could lead to self- selection bias
	To	pic 2: Study Plannin	g and Design		
Be aware of the existence of multiple OPPs and make use of those OPPs	Test theories across different samples Find more naïve participants Better response rates Better data quality More diverse participants Avoid one dominant OPP shaping research questions and directions Recruit qualitatively different participants	 Crone & Williams (2017) Gleibs (2017) Goodman & Paolacci (2017) Miller et al. (2017) Peterson & Merunka (2014) 	• Peer et al. (2017)	• N/A	• N/A
Create unique completion codes that participants must submit to get paid	Link anonymous participants to responses Reject poor data	• Buhrmester et al. (2011) • Keith et al. (2017) • Paolacci et al. (2010)	• N/A	• N/A	Unless using third-party platform, can be time consuming and impractical to verify secret codes (Litman, Robinson, & Abberbock 2017)
Be aware of and make use of third- party apps (e.g., TurkPrime) to help manage the research process	Better manage the data collection process	• Gleibs (2017) • Horton et al. (2011) • Keith et al. (2017) • Mason & Suri (2012) • Stritch et al. (2017)	• Litman et al. (2017)	• N/A	• N/A
Increase your sample size to offset anticipated decreases in power	Deal with attenuated effects sizes due to non-naïveté Low quality data can harm results	• Chandler et al. (2015) • Rouse (2015) • Sprouse (2011)	• Chandler et al. (2015) • Sprouse (2011)	• N/A	• N/A
Avoid common experimental paradigms and psychological measures	Avoid problems with participant non-naïveté (e.g., practice effects)	Chandler et al. (2014) Goodman & Paolacci (2017) Hauser & Schwarz (2016)	• Chandler et al. (2014)	• N/A	• N/A

		 Keith et al. (2017) Paolacci & Chandler (2014) Paolacci et al. (2010) Woo et al. (2015) 			
Ensure study design consistency when combining samples	Reduce chance that effect size differences are due to different design features	• Cheung et al. (2017) • Mason & Suri (2012)	• N/A	• N/A	• N/A
Temporally separate IVs and DVs when possible and/or appropriate	Reduce common method variance Reduce demand characteristics Conduct test-retest reliability	• Paolacci & Chandler (2014) • Stritch et al. (2017)	• N/A	• N/A	Requires tracking IDs which could potentially be used to access personally identifiable information
Use source-separation for surveys when possible and/or appropriate	Reduce common method variance	Paolacci & Chandler (2014)	• N/A	• N/A	• Could violate terms of some OPPs to ask for personal info (Miller et al., 2017)
Avoid OPD for cross-cultural research in non-English speaking countries or when unnecessary	Avoid non-representative sample Improve data quality	 Buhrmester et al. (2011) Chandler & Shapiro (2016) Cheung et al. (2017) Keith et al. (2017) 	• Feitosa et al. (2015) • Litman et al. (2015)	• N/A	• Studies have successfully used OPPs based in other countries to obtain acceptable quality data (e.g., Ng & Feldman 2012; Ng & Feldman, 2015)
Make use of OPD for cross cultural research	Growing number of countries from which to draw a sample	• Goodman & Paolacci (2017) • Paolacci et al. (2010) • Woo et al. (2015)	• N/A	• Feitosa et al. (2015) • Litman et al. (2015)	Increase risk of sample bias in countries where English is not first language Poor data quality
	7	Topic 3: Measures an	d Controls		
Ask participants if they have participated in similar experimental manipulations before	Account for non-naïveté	Paolacci et al. (2010)Woo et al. (2015)	• N/A	• N/A	• Participants may not remember (or may falsify) reports of prior participation
Track participant IDs to account for non-naïveté; asking participants if they have participated in similar experimental manipulations before is not enough	Participants may not remember or may be dishonest when reporting on whether they have engaged in similar experiments	 Chandler et al. (2014) Chandler et al. (2015) Cheung et al. (2017) Goodman & Paolacci (2017) Keith et al. (2017) 	• Chandler et al. (2015)	• N/A	Some evidence that worker IDs can be linked to personally identifying information
Measure the completion rate and	Account for potential	• Keith et al. (2017)	• N/A	• N/A	• N/A
bounce rate when possible Ask workers how they found your study	impact of self-selectionDetect potential selection bias	• Chandler et al. (2014)	• N/A	• N/A	• N/A
Ask participants why they participated in your study	• Understand if and how motivations affect substantive findings	• Cheung et al. (2017) • McGonagle (2015)	• Fleischer, Mead, & Huang (2015)	• N/A	• N/A
Measure perceived equity for participation	• Determine possible inequity	• Gleibs (2017)	• N/A	• N/A	• N/A

Measure sources of "noise" in the participant's physical environment	• Identify and control for systematic differences in environments	Cheung et al. (2017)Lovett et al. (2018)	Chandler et al. (2014)Clifford & Jerit (2014)Lovett et al. (2018)	• N/A	• N/A
Control for the number studies previously completed by the participant	Evaluate non-naïveté Use as covariate in data analysis	• Goodman & Paolacci (2017)	• N/A	• N/A	• N/A
		Topic 4: Infori	ning		
Post informed consent	Decrease social desirability	Behrend et al. (2011)Mason & Suri (2012)	• Behrend et al. (2011)	• N/A	• N/A
Provide debriefing when appropriate	 Allow participants to understand purpose Provide way to contact researcher 	 Mason & Suri (2012) Stritch et al. (2017)	• N/A	• N/A	• Debriefing may cause "loyal following" or increase non-naïveté (Chandler et al., 2014)
Specify any physical environment requirements ahead of time	Reduce chance that extraneous factors influence findings	• Cheung et al. (2017)	• N/A	• N/A	• N/A
Ensure you provide good directions and that your survey formatting is free of error	• Improve data quality and effort put forth by participants	• Alonso & Mizzaro (2012) • Lovett et al. (2018)	• N/A	• N/A	• N/A
		Topic 5: Data Q	uality		
Provide warnings that inattentiveness will not result in compensation	Reduce risk of inattentiveness Foster withdrawal-without-prejudice Decrease attrition	• Cheung et al. (2017) • Gleibs (2017) • Keith et al. (2017) • Stritch et al. (2017)	• Huang, Liu, & Bowling (2015b) • Huang. Curran, Keeney, Poposki, & DeShon (2012)	• N/A	Could trigger reactance from participants
Pay inattentive workers but consider blocking them from future participation	Balance norms of OP community (i.e., reject bad work) with IRB requirements to avoid penalizing subjects who withdraw Maintain a positive reputation among participants	Harms & DeSimone (2015)Keith et al. (2017)Paolacci et al. (2010)	• N/A	• N/A	 Moral obligation to avoid paying for bad work (Fleischer et al., 2015). Might violate IRB's "without penalty" portion of right to withdraw (Fleischer et al., 2015)
Offer a second chance to participants who fail attention checks	 Provides justification for refusing HIT Minimizes perceptions of unfairness Protects Requestor's reputation in OP community 	• Cheung et al. (2017)	• Oppenheimer, Mevvis, & Davidenko (2009)	• N/A	• There could be group differences between participants who initially failed checks and those that did not (Oppenheimer et al., 2009)
Award bonuses for high-quality work and let participants know ahead of time that bonuses are available	• Encourages high quality responses	• Keith et al. (2017) • Woo et al. (2015)	 Barger, Behrend, Sharek, & Sinar, 2011) Brawley & Pury (2016) Chandler, Paolacci & Mueller (2014) 	• N/A	Avoid incentivizing practices that you do not want to become norms (Hauser & Schwarz, 2016)
Set upper and lower rates on survey completion times and reject work exceeding those limits	• Ensures responses that are too quick or too slow are automatically rejected	Mason & Suri (2012)Miller et al. (2017)Stritch et al. (2017)	Huang et al. (2015b)Huang et al. (2012)Meade & Craig (2012)	• Greszki, Meyer, & Schoen (2014) • Lovett et al. (2018)	• Time limits may be a bad indicator of quality

Do not put a time limit on how fast or slow a survey can be completed by participants	• Fast people can do accurate work as well as slow people	• Lovett et al. (2018) • Matthijsse, De Leeuw, & Hox (2015)	Brawley & Pury (2016)Greszki et al. (2014)Lovett et al. (2018)	 Aust et al. (2013) Huang et al. (2015a) Huang et al. (2012) Meade & Craig (2012) 	Participants who are unreasonably slow or fast may go undetected
Create unique attention checks and/or use instructional manipulation checks	• Unique attention checks are less likely to be spotted by inattentive participants	• Fleischer et al. (2015) • Goodman & Paolacci (2017) • Rouse (2015)	• Hauser & Schwarz (2016)	• Peer et al. (2014)	When samples are composed of high reputation workers, novel checks may be ineffective
Use conventional attention checks to identify and potentially remove responses provided by careless respondents	Identify workers who miss obvious questions Reduce systematic bias which could inflate relationships Reduce the chance that measurement error will shrink correlations	 Cheung et al. (2017) Fleischer et al. (2015) Keith et al. (2017) Landers & Behrend (2015) Mason & Suri (2012) McGonagle (2015) Paolacci et al. (2010) Ran, Liu, Marchiondo, & Huang (2015) Shapiro et al. (2013) Smith et al. (2015) Sprouse (2011) Stritch et al. (2017) Woo et al. (2015) 	 Fleischer et al. (2015) McGonagle (2015) Meade & Craig (2012) Huang et al. (2015a) Huang et al. (2012) Huang et al. (2015b) Woods (2006) 	• Aust et al. (2013) • Downs et al. (2012) • Goodman et al. (2012) • Peer et al. (2014) • Rouse (2015)	Checks may be ineffective Could cause reactance on the part of participants
Ask participants whether they were attentive and give them option to have data removed	These types of checks have been shown to be effective where traditional attention checks have not	• Rouse (2015)	• Aust et al. (2013) • Meade & Craig (2012) • Rouse (2015)	• Oppenheimer et al. (2009)	Could signal non-serious responses are expected, increasing bad data (Aust et al., 2013)
Either prescreen for attentiveness or simply avoid using ex-post screening methods to identify careless respondents	Reduce concerns about researchers abusing screening to obtain results Ensures participants understand task Attention checks may not improve data quality	 Chandler et al. (2014) Keith et al. (2017) Mason & Suri (2012) Paolacci & Chandler (2014) Paolacci et al. (2010) Ran et al. (2015) 	• Simmons, Nelson, & Simonsohn (2011)	• N/A	Reduced ability to compare participants on differences in main study variables
		Topic 6: Compa	risons		
Track participant IDs when available	Prescreen participants who have already participated in same or similar study Collect longitudinal data Check for nonindependence Build a panel of participants for future	 Chandler et al. (2015) Chandler & Shapiro (2016) Cheung et al. (2017) Goodman & Paolacci (2017) Mason & Suri (2012) Paolacci et al. (2010) Stritch et al. (2017) 	• Chandler et al. (2015)	• Lease et al. (2013)	Building a panel of participants could lead to panel conditioning (Chandler & Shapir, 2016; Goritz, 2007) Could potentially reveal personally identifying information (Goodman & Paolacci, 2017; Lease et al., 2013)

Compare reliability estimates of your OPD sample to relevant comparison samples	• Determine if there is statistical difference in scores to boost confidence in sample representativeness	• Rouse (2015)	• Rouse (2015)	• N/A	• N/A
Capture IP addresses and reject responses from the same IP address	Screen for multiple responses from same individual	 Cheung et al (2017) Mason & Suri (2012) Smith et al. (2015) Stritch et al. (2017) 	• Horton et al. (2011) • Jilke, Van Ryzin, & Van de Walle (2016)	• Aust et al. (2013) • Berinsky. Huber, & Lenz (2012) • Shapiro et al. (2013)	• It is possible to have more than one worker from the same IP address (Gosling, Vazire, Srivastava, & John, 2004; Smith et al., 2015)
	T	opic 7: Managing Ro	elationships		
• Thank workers and embed tasks with "meaning"—explain meaning of tasks they will complete	Increase data quality Pay alone isn't enough— participants want "fun" studies	• Fleischer et al. (2015) • Matthijssee et al. (2015) • Paolacci & Chandler (2014)	 Brawley & Pury (2016) Chandler & Kapelner (2013) Chandler et al. (2014) Lovett et al. (2018) 	• N/A	Questionable value of intrinsically motivating research
Monitor discussion boards for chatter about your study	Identify instances where the purpose of your study might be revealed (i.e., deception or manipulation) Boost confidence in stable unit treatment value assumption	 Chandler et al. (2014) Cheung et al. (2017) Goodman & Paolacci (2017) Horton et al. (2011) Keith et al. (2017) 	Horton et al. (2011) Rogstadius, Kostakos, Kittur, Smus, Laredo, & Vukovic (2011) Schmidt (2015) Wessling et al. (2017)	• N/A	The low base rate of problematic chatter could render this recommendation an inefficient use of time
Avoid experiments involving deception and consider guaranteeing you will not use deception in your studies	Foster trust between researchers and participants in general There is a greater chance that participants have seen similar deception	• Horton et al. (2011) • Mason & Suri (2012) • Schmidt (2015)	• N/A	• N/A	Deception may not be problematic if participants are debriefed
• Review formal OPP-specific guidelines and act ethically by, for example, clearly identifying yourself to participants, providing reasonable time estimates, paying as soon as possible, and maintaining lines of communication	Foster good relations between researchers and participants Ensure workers are able to make informed decisions about completing task Avoid potential attrition Avoid reputation damage to researcher Enhance data quality	• Gleibs (2017) • Goodman & Paolacci (2017) • Keith et al. (2017) • Lovett et al. (2018) • Mason & Suri (2012) • Paolacci et al. (2010) • Stritch et al. (2017)	• Brawley & Pury (2016) • Lovett et al. (2018)	• N/A	• N/A
• Read forums to get a sense of OP participants and introduce yourself to the OP community via web forums if possible	Provide researchers with a more realistic picture of the participants Open the door to communication	 Goodman & Paolacci (2017) Lovett et al. (2018) Mason & Suri (2012) Schmidt (2015) Wessling et al. (2017) 	• Lovett et al. (2018)	• N/A	• N/A
Provide justifiable and concrete reasons to a participant if rejecting that participant's work	Prevent misunderstandings	 Cheung et al. (2017) Gleibs (2017) Harms & DeSimone (2015) Paolacci et al. (2010) 	• Brawley & Pury (2016)	• N/A	• N/A

		Topic 8: Compe	nsation		
• Pay a "fair" wage	Ethical principle of justice Goodwill Faster recruiting Participants are increasingly reliant on OPD for a sustainable source of income	 Behrend et al. (2011) Crone & Williams (2017) Gleibs (2017) Goodman & Paolacci (2017) Lovett et al. (2018) Rouse (2015) 	• Crump et al. (2013)	• N/A	Field must decide on what constitutes "fair" pay Does "fair pay" result in best results?
Pay an appealing—but not overly appealing—wage	Reduce likelihood of participants lying about characteristics Recruit faster	• Goodman & Paolacci (2017) • Smith et al. (2015)	• Brawley & Pury (2016) • Crump et al. (2013) • Rogstadius et al. (2011)	• N/A	Trouble defining "overly appealing" wages
Pay a low wage—or at least avoid enticing monetary incentives	OPPs are a "bottom shelf' market Participants usually don't rely on wages. Participants are not forced to work Low wages don't impact results Reduce chances that workers lie about qualifications	 Crone & Williams (2017) Mason & Suri (2012) Paolacci et al. (2010) Smith et al. (2015) 	 Buhrmester et al. (2011) Chandler et al. (2014) Mason & Watts (2009) 	Aker, El-Haj, Albakour, & Kruschwitz (2012) Lovett et al. (2018)	Ethical implications—just because low wages do not impact results does not make it ethical to pay low wages Some evidence indicates low pay does hurt results
Pay at least median reservation wage	Presumed fairness	Behrend et al. (2011)Paolacci et al. (2010)	Horton & Chilton (2010)	• N/A	• This is a target that changes with time and perhaps across OPPs
Pay U.S. Federal minimum wage	• Lower pay than physical lab because less involved, but fair	• Goodman & Paolacci (2017)	• N/A	• N/A	Relatively high pay may encourage dishonesty
• Pay participants whatever going market rate is (e.g., \$2/hour)	Pay rates do not affect the quality of data	• Stritch et al. (2017)	• N/A	• N/A	• The "market rate" may not be considered "fair"
• Increase compensation when follow-up timeframes increase or more effort is required on the part of the participant	Improve retention rate	 Behrend et al. (2011) Goodman & Paolacci (2017) Keith et al. (2017) 	• N/A	• N/A	• N/A
• Use a "hook" strategy where difficult upfront tasks that pay more must be completed before easy tasks are offered (total payment forfeited if entire study is not completed)	Improve retention rate	• Goodman & Paolacci (2017) • Horton et al. (2011)	• N/A	• N/A	Participants may feel mislead or trapped in a study when sunk costs are involved
		Topic 9: Repo	rting		
Be transparent with regard to materials used in your study and the methods used to recruit participants	Avoid potential for arbitrary design choices to influence sample composition	• Gleibs (2017) • Paolacci & Chandler (2014)	• N/A	• N/A	• N/A
Report the amount of compensation participants received and the average study completion time	TransparencyFuture meta-analyses of payment on sample characteristics	• Keith et al. (2017) • Paolacci et al. (2010)	• Keith et al. (2017)	• N/A	• N/A

If using attention checks or similar indicators to screen for quality, report results both before and after screening techniques were applied Collect and report the following: demographics; compensation; the participant's country of residence; and how non-naïveté was handled	Increased transparency and understand impact of data screening on research Avoid relying on prior research for sample representativeness of OPP as a whole Increase transparency	 Cheung et al. (2017) Goodman & Paolacci (2017) Keith et al. (2017) Shapiro et al. (2013) Chandler et al. (2014) Goodman & Paolacci (2017) Keith et al. (2017) Paolacci & Chandler (2014) 	• Chandler et al. (2014) • Cheung et al. (2017) • Keith et al. (2017) • Ran et al. (2015) • Keith et al. (2017)	• N/A • N/A	• N/A • N/A
	Top	ic 10: Institutional	Responsibilities	l .	
Journals should offer clear instructions to authors on reporting of survey response rates and how to address nonresponse	Continue examining evidence of sampling error	• Fisher & Sandell (2015)	• N/A	• N/A	• N/A
Reviewers and editors should create standards for "low quality" data screening and reporting	Researchers can adopt a screening method—a priori— based on recommendations	• Ran et al. (2015)	• N/A	• N/A	There might not be a "one size fits all" standard for screening Screening may be unnecessary
Journals should require authors to report pay and the average length of the study	Better understanding of pay per hour	• Gleibs (2017)	• N/A	• N/A	Unclear if minimum wage is problematic
Universities/departments should provide funding to pay participants at least minimum wage	Avoid exploiting workers	• Gleibs (2017)	• N/A	• N/A	Unclear if minimum wage is "too attractive" and could be problematic
Internal Review Boards should consider fair pay	Protect participants and adhere to ethical standards	• Gleibs (2017)	• N/A	• N/A	Many IRB members feel that any monetary payment is undue influence (Klitzman, 2013; Largent, Grady, Miller, & Wertheimer 2012)