



## The validity of randomized controlled trials applied to poverty in questions

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Abstract: It is widely recognized that the analysis of poverty in terms of randomized experiments has strong internal validity. On closer examination, this claim is open to debate. The discrepancy between the randomization exercise and the underlying assumptions compromises causal inference. This limitation, resulting from the lack of theoretical prerequisites, weakens the generalization potential and explanatory capacity of the *gold standard* and undermines its ambition to test theories.

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