

Report from the course “Design and analysis of cluster randomised and stepped wedge trials” at London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine

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1. *What course/conference/workshop did you attend?*

I attended the course “Design and Analysis of Cluster Randomised and Stepped Wedge Trials” at London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine. The course was held in London from 8th to 12th of July 2019.

2. *What was the course/conference/workshop about?*

The topic of the course was, as the title indicates, the design and analysis of cluster randomised trials (CRTs), and also included a one-day session on the design and analysis of stepped wedge trials. The course was very well organised with lectures as well as practical sessions with the use of example datasets in Stata. The lecturers were all statisticians/epidemiologists experienced in conducting and analysing CRTs, and were very helpful and happy to give advice on specific matters relating to participants’ own projects. One of the lecturers is the co-author of a book on CRTs, and this book was given to all participants attending the course. We were also given a USB-stick with all lecture notes, practical questions and example datasets.

On the end of the first day, there was a reception where course leaders and participants could mingle. There were approximately 20 participants in the course, which made the course highly interactive and social. All participants had some experience with either CRTs or stepped wedge trials.

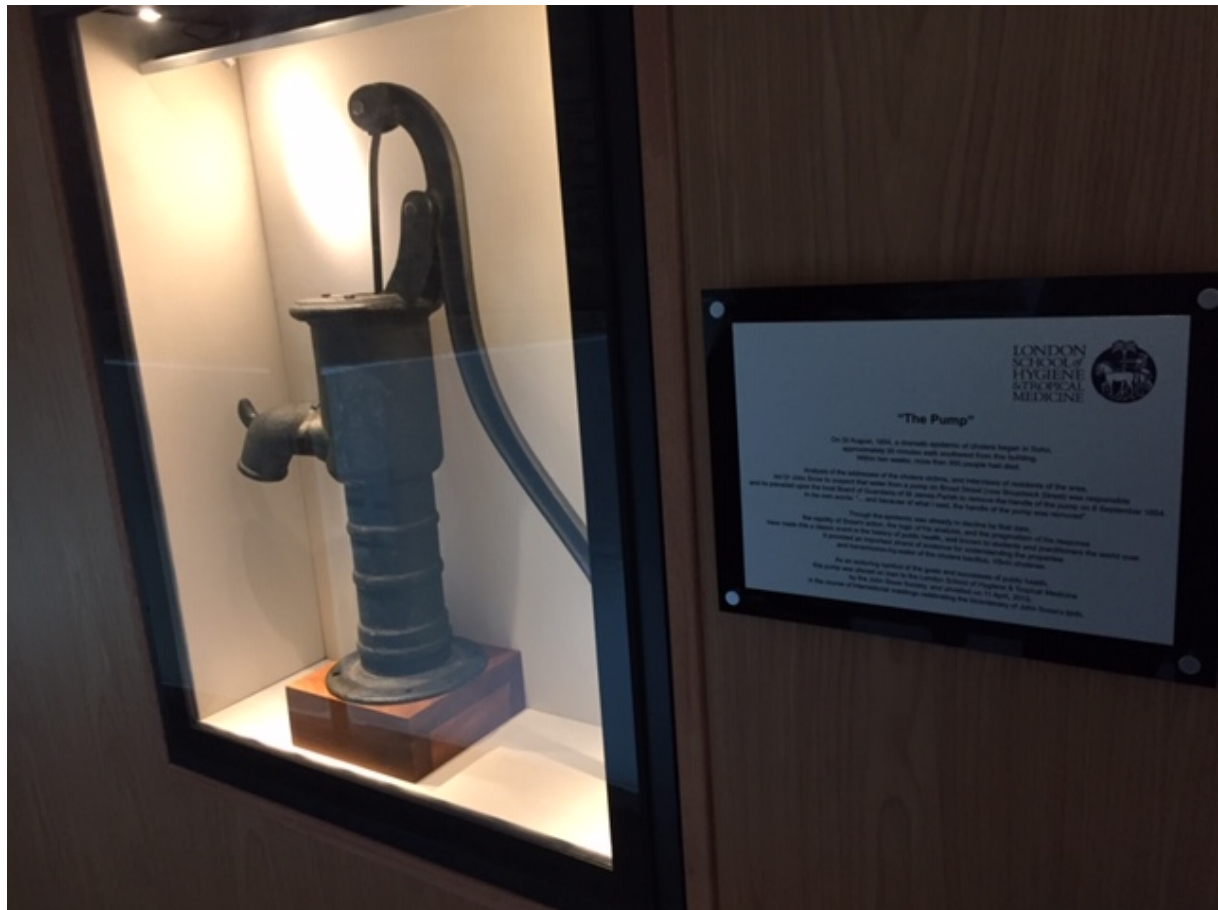
3. *How will you benefit from this course/conference/workshop?*

I already had some experience with the analysis of CRTs before attending the course, as I am involved in an ongoing CRT in Zambia, but my knowledge was fragmented and incomplete. After attending the course, I am able to more fully understand the particularities of CRTs, and I received input on some challenges I have been facing in the analysis of my own project. As a result of taking the course, I have decided to make some changes to my own analyses in the hope that they become more correct. I have also learned some useful commands and tools in Stata, which will be helpful in the future.

During the course I got to know researchers in all career phases, some of which could provide useful advice and input on statistical and methodological challenges. Hopefully, I will remain in touch with the participants from the course, and we have already established a group for future contact.

4. *How satisfied are you with the course/conference/workshop?*

I was very satisfied with the course and would highly recommend it to anyone considering conducting CRTs or to anyone involved in the analysis of CRTs. I am grateful for having had the opportunity to attend this course, and for the economic support received from the NRSFH.



During a cholera outbreak in London in 1854, Dr. John Snow identified water from a pump on Broad Street as responsible for spreading the disease, and as a result, the pump's handle was removed. The pump is now placed at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, as a symbol of success in public health.