A meta-analysis of tax compliance experiments

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Since 1978, economists, psychologists, sociologists and accountants have used experiments to investigate the determinants of tax compliance. In this paper the author attempts to synthesize this literature in a meta-analysis to draw conclusions regarding the determinants of tax compliance. Specifically, the author examines the impacts of traditional economic determinants of tax compliance: the tax rate, the penalty rate, and the probability of audit. The author finds strong evidence that increasing the penalty rate and the probability of audit lead to higher compliance, but the effects of increasing the tax rate on compliance are unclear.

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