Course Topics

General Information

Many students focus on empirical projects in their final thesis. Although students have considerable knowledge in theoretical econometric concepts, they typically have no extensive experience in applied empirical work before starting their thesis. This seminar aims to fill this gap.

The purpose of this seminar is to attempt to replicate and to discuss critically existing, published research. Students replicate empirical results from research papers published in international economic journals. Along the research question of the original paper, the students focus entirely on the empirical implementation, which typically includes:

- data search and preparation
- usage of econometric software
- choice of appropriate econometric methods
- presentation of the results and submission of a written empirical seminar paper

This project should give students the opportunity to participate in the current economic debate and improve their understanding of empirical work and econometric methods. In addition, the students train their presentation and writing skills.

Replication Paper

Each student chooses the paper to be replicated on her/his own. The following criteria have to be considered:

- You have to choose an empirical paper in the field of development economics (e.g. economic growth, trade, fdi, poverty, inequality, migration, corruption, conflict) and replicate the analysis. You should also find the topic interesting
- The structure of the data and methodology used in the paper should be appropriate to replicate the paper based on the methodological knowledge you gained so far (e.g. regression analysis based on panel data).
- Two participants can not work on the same paper.
- The paper should be published during the last ten years and make an empirical statement.
- The journals should be classified as A+, A or B+ according to the “Handelsblatt VWL Journal Ranking” (see Journal list below)
- You should be able to obtain the original data for this paper. This is easy if the paper is based on data, which is publicly available. Several good journals require authors to provide the data for their article. Otherwise, you may have to send the author a polite email.
**Course of Action**

At the beginning, the students get an introduction into scientific research methods and scientific writing.

Then, all participants will briefly present and give a short overview of the article they have selected for replication (approx. 5 minutes). Here you should focus on the following questions:

- What is the underlying research question?
- What methodology and data has been used?
- What are the main results?
- What is your replication strategy?

Then we ask students to work on their replication projects (on their own). Here the computer lab with STATA software is available on a weekly basis; the course advisor is present and can help in case of questions and implementation problems. Additionally, the course advisor is ready to meet students to discuss the progress on the replication project.

Students have to hand in a written project paper (approx. 10 pages + Appendix for figures and graphs) by the end of the semester.

In addition, students have to present their replication project in a block seminar (approx. 10-15 minutes)

**Language**

The language for this seminar will be English.

**Prerequisites**

Basic knowledge in empirical work and statistics; interest in scientific work.

**Important Dates**

See Course Schedule
Journal List

The following list is taken from the Handelsblatt Ranking 2015.

A+ ranked journals

American Economic Review
Econometrica
Journal of Finance
Journal of Financial Economics
Journal of Monetary Economics
Journal of Political Economy
Nature
Quarterly Journal of Economics
Review of Economic Studies
Science

A ranked journals

American Political Science Review
Annals of Statistics
Economic Journal
European Economic Review
Games and Economic Behavior
International Economic Review
International Organization
Journal of Accounting and Economics
Journal of Business and Economic Statistics
Journal of Business
Journal of Econometrics
Journal of Economic Theory
Journal of Health Economics
Journal of International Economics
Journal of Labor Economics
Journal of Public Economics
Journal of the American Statistical Association
Journal of the European Economic Association
Journal of the Royal Statistical Society. Series B Statistical Methodology
Management Science
RAND Journal of Economics (formerly: Bell Journal of Economics)
Review of Economics and Statistics
Review of Financial Studies
Statistical Science

B+ ranked journals