POLICY EVALUATION

Program and references

The course aims to provide students with advanced knowledge of microeconometric tools and techniques for empirical analysis applied to economic policy issues. In the first part of the course, students will learn the theoretical foundations of the main econometric methods for causal inference and economic policy evaluation. In the second part of the course, students will see applications of these methods to various economic policy issues, learning how to use statistical software for econometric analysis. At the end of the course, students will present group projects on which the final evaluation will be based.

Part 1

1. Introduction to the methods for causal inference
   References: Cunningham, S., 2021. Causal inference: The mixtape. Yale University Press. Cap. 1-3
2. Randomized experiments
   References: Cunningham, S., 2021. Causal inference: The mixtape. Yale University Press. Cap. 4
3. Conditional independence and matching
   References: Cunningham, S., 2021. Causal inference: The mixtape. Yale University Press. Cap. 5
4. Regression discontinuity design
   References: Cunningham, S., 2021. Causal inference: The mixtape. Yale University Press. Cap. 6
5. Instrumental variables
   References: Cunningham, S., 2021. Causal inference: The mixtape. Yale University Press. Cap. 7
6. Panel data and Difference-in-differences
   References: Cunningham, S., 2021. Causal inference: The mixtape. Yale University Press. Cap. 8-9

Part 2 (coincides with the *Methods for Economic Analysis LAB*)

1. Introduction to Stata
   a. Importing data in Stata
   b. Basic commands
   c. Linear regression
   References: instructor's notes
2. Household finance
   a. Topics in household finance
   b. Replication of Nieddu e Pandolfi (2021)
   References:
   - Guiso, Luigi, and Paolo Sodini, 2013, "Household Finance: An Emerging Field", Handbook of the Economics of Finance 2(B): 1397–1532
   - Nieddu, Marco, and Lorenzo Pandolfi, 2021, "Cutting Through the Fog: Financial Literacy and Financial Investment Choices", Journal of the European Economic Association, 19(1): 237–274
3. Economics of migration
   a. Economics of migration: theory and empirical evidence
   b. Replication of Langella e Manning (2021)
   References:
   - Abramitzky, Ran, and Leah Boustan, 2017, "Immigration in American Economic History", Journal of Economic Literature, 55 (4): 1311-45
   - Dustmann, Christian, Uta Schönberg, and Jan Stuhler, 2016, "The Impact of Immigration: Why Do Studies Reach Such Different Results?", Journal of Economic Perspectives, 30 (4): 31-56
   - Langella, Monica, and Alan Manning, 2021, "Income and the desire to migrate", CEP DP1794

4. Minimum wage
    a. Minimum wage: theory and empirical evidence
    b. Replication of Card e Krueger (1994)

    References: Card, David, and Alan Krueger, 1994, "Minimum Wages and Employment: A Case Study of the Fast-Food Industry in New Jersey and Pennsylvania", American Economic Review, 84(4): 772–793
5. Economics of crime
    a. Economics of crime: theory and empirical evidence
    b. Replication of Hansen (2015)

    References:

    - Eide, Erling, Paul H. Rubin, and Joanna Shepherd, 2006, "Economics of Crime", Foundations and Trends in Microeconomics, 2(3)

    - Hansen, Benjamin. 2015. "Punishment and Deterrence: Evidence from Drunk Driving", American Economic Review, 105(4): 1581-1617
6. Microeconometrics for macroeconomics
    a. Natural experiments in macroeconomics
    b. Replication of Acconcia, Corsetti e Simonelli (2014)

    References:

    - Fuchs-Schuendeln, Nicola, and Tarek A. Hassan, 2016, "Natural Experiments in Macroeconomics", Handbook of Macroeconomics, 2: 923–1012

    - Acconcia, Antonio, Giancarlo Corsetti, and Saverio Simonelli, 2014, "Mafia and Public Spending: Evidence on the Fiscal Multiplier from a Quasi-experiment", American Economic Review, 104(7): 2185–2209
7. Students' presentations