Applied Economics Workshop
S403018

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The aim of the workshop is to have students familiarize with the current methods of empirical analysis of microdata for policy relevant topics. The main focus will be on hands-on, and interactive, understanding of frontier research in applied economics.
In particular, we will cover a series of topics, firstly from a theoretical perspective and then with applications and replications.

The class will cover:

1. Identification and Randomized Controlled Trials
2. Natural Experiments and Difference-in-differences
3. Matching methods, regression and IV
4. Regression Discontinuity Design

Each of these 4 topics will be introduced by the instructors. Students will then have to choose a published paper using the methodology and replicate it. The replications will be presented in class. Hence, each of the 4 topics will be covered over 3 sessions, one devoted to the theoretical introduction, one to group work led by the TA and finally one devoted to the students presentations.

The replication work will be done in small groups. Each group will have to choose a paper to replicate from the attached list of scientific journals. We expect the groups to replicate the main results of the chosen paper and either add 5 robustness checks (not present in the published paper) and/or extend the analysis in one meaningful direction.

The groups will be assigned by the instructors and reshuffled once after the midterm break. Each group presents at each presentation session (4 over the term) with slots of 30 minutes each. All members of the groups are expected to present at every session.

Evaluation

Students are evaluated on class participation (10%) and on the presentations of the replication analyses (90%). The presentation will take place during class.