Fundamentals and methods for impact evaluation of public policies

Course programme

14-19 September 2020

Palazzo Franchetti, Venice (Italy)

Paolo Pinotti	Margherita Fort	Enrico Rettore	Ugo Trivellato	Martina Bazzoli	Sergiu Burlacu
Guest Speaker	Instructor	Instructor	Instructor	Instructor	Instructor
Bocconi University	FBK-IRVAPP Bologna University	FBK-IRVAPP Padua University	FBK-IRVAPP Padua University	FBK-IRVAPP	FBK-IRVAPP

09.00-12.30   *Ugo Trivellato*

10.30-11.00 coffee break

- Introduction to impact evaluation.
- Potential outcomes and the fundamental problem of causal inference.
- Conditions for learning about the causal effects of a programme.
- Causal parameters and selection bias.

12.30-14.30 lunch and break

14.30-18.00   *Ugo Trivellato*

16.00-16.30 coffee break

- A taxonomy of selection processes and identification strategies: selection bias as a heterogeneity problem; random assignment; selection on observables; selection on unobservable.
- Internal and external validity of an evaluation design.
- Evaluation strategies and data requirements: prospective *vs.* retrospective evaluation, data requirements.

TUESDAY, 15 SEPTEMBER

09.00-12.30   *Enrico Rettore*

10.30-11.00 coffee break

- Impact evaluation in an experimental setting: design and implementation of randomized experiments; minimum detectable effects.
- Impact evaluation in an observational setting, selection on observables (I): stratification and matching; curse of dimensionality.

12.30-14.30 lunch and break

14.30-18.00   *Enrico Rettore*

16.00-16.30 coffee break

- Impact evaluation in an observational setting, selection on observables (II): propensity score and matching.
- Impact evaluation in an observational setting, selection on observables (III): operationalising matching.

WEDNESDAY, 16 SEPTEMBER

09.00-12.30   *Enrico Rettore*

- The linear model: orthogonality condition and omitted variable bias formula.

- Instrumental variables: first stage and exclusion restrictions.

Free afternoon

THURSDAY, 17 SEPTEMBER

09.00-12.30   *Margherita Fort*

- Instrumental variables, continued: over-identifying conditions test; heterogeneity of the causal effect and characterization of compliers.

14.30-16.00   *Margherita Fort*

- Regression discontinuity designs: Sharp and fuzzy designs, graphical analysis, parametric and non-parametric estimation, the bias-variance trade-off, placebo and falsification tests.

16.30-18.00   *Martina Bazzoli*

- *Training session* – OLS and IV regression.

09.00-12.30   ***Keynote speaker: Paolo Pinotti***

- Immigrants, legal status, and crime: Evidence from two natural experiments.
- Equal opportunities for immigrant students: Evidence from two randomized controlled trials.

10.30-11.00 coffee break

12.30-14.30 lunch and break

14.30-18.00   ***Margherita Fort***

16.00-16.30 coffee break

- Exploiting longitudinal variation: panel and difference-in-differences models; parallel trends assumption; standard error issues.
- Synthetic control methods: relationship with difference-in-differences, testing through placebos.

SATURDAY, 19 SEPTEMBER

09.00-12.30   ***Sergiu Burlacu***

10.30-11.00 coffee break

- *Training session:* RDD, difference-in-differences and synthetic control methods

12.30-14.00 lunch and break

14.00-16.00   ***Margherita Fort, Enrico Rettore & Ugo Trivellato***

- Questions & Answers session.
- **Closing**