

35866 Topics in Public Economics - Replicating Empirical Research

module number
35866
module title
Topics in Public Economics
module coordinator
Prof. Dr. Stefan Bauernschuster

examination number	credit points (ECTS)	hours per week (SWS)
272120	7	2
availability	duration	recommended semester
Winter semester	1 semester	3

workload
Seminar 2 SWS (30 hours class instruction; 180 hours self-study)
Calculation is based on: every hr./sem.-week corresponds to 60 minutes. One semester is presumed to be 15 weeks, i.e. 14 course + 1 exam week
module applicability
Modulgruppe D: Governance, Institutions and Development
reference to the LPO I
recommended requirements
Basic knowledge in STATA or R
obligatory requirements
In-depth microeconomic knowledge (in particular on quasi-experimental methods) acquired for example in the courses "Natural and Field Experiments" or "Evaluation of Development Policies"
language
English

content
This course introduces students to the replication of empirical research papers. It is divided into two parts. In the first part, students work in groups of two to replicate the main results of a published empirical research paper. The results of this exercise (including the code developed by the students themselves) are then presented to the rest of the class. In the second part, students individually prepare a short seminar paper in which they extend the replication of the paper by conducting further analyses. The research papers assigned will be in the broad area of public economics and the software used can either be Stata or R.
intended learning outcomes (ILOs)
Students who have successfully participated in the module are able to <ul style="list-style-type: none">• analyze and interpret research papers in the area of applied microeconometrics, and evaluate their identifying strategy• assess the importance of replication in applied research• develop and strengthen their data literacy skills by working with different types of data sets• apply econometric methods in Stata or R to replicate research papers

- identify relevant research ideas and implement them by independently extending the analyses conducted in the research paper
- effectively communicate the main results of the empirical exercise in oral and written form, and critically discuss problems encountered

teaching methods

Introductory sessions with interactive elements
Seminar as a blocked course with student presentations and discussions

required attendance

examination (type of examination, scope)

Portfolio (presentation and seminar thesis (6 pages))

overall grade relevance

50% presentation and 50% seminar thesis

possibility of retake exam

reading list

The research papers for replication will be presented in the introductory session.

additional notes

The first part of the seminar mainly consists of the reproduction of a research paper's original findings; we will provide the students with the underlying data set. The students are supposed to explore whether the results replicate and present their replication exercise in the presentation session. While the first part consists of the reproduction of the original study results, the goal of the second part of the course, i.e. the seminar paper, is to shortly summarize the original study and then review and extend the paper's methods and findings. Therefore, each student should independently analyze the robustness of the results and summarize the findings in a short seminar paper.