

**MA-FK-600 / MA-W-210 / MA-W-220:
Angewandte empirische Wirtschaftsforschung/Applied Econometrics**

**Announcement of the Empirical Master Research Seminar
“Replication of Empirical Econometric Studies”**

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General information:

In this seminar we will be conducting replications of published articles. Replication of scientific findings becomes increasingly important in economics. This can mean pure re-construction and re-assessment of existing estimations, but may also include an extension of the applied methods and the use of different data. The goal of this seminar is to choose a scientific article for which data is available and replicate its estimations using the same data and methods. After checking the results, an additional sensitivity analysis is in order. This can be achieved by checking underlying assumptions, testing for effect heterogeneity or changing specifications, for example. Where possible it may also be interesting to re-run the estimations based on other data for different regions or different populations and compare the results to those in the article. This will be excellent preparation for a prospective master thesis.

The replicability of scientific results obviously depends on the availability of data. Therefore, an increasing number of economic journals demand the submission of data sets used for the estimations. Journals such as *The American Economic Review*, the *American Economic Journal: Applied Economics*, the *Journal of Applied Econometrics* and the *Journal of Political Economy* provide free public access to a large variety of data sets in their online archives. Anderson et al. (2008) predict that due to the publication of data, research will be carried out more thoroughly in the future and will be better able to correct itself and advance faster.

In this seminar, we will focus on the methods Regression Discontinuity Design and Difference-in-Differences.

Registration:

If interested in participating, please register by sending an email to seminar@empwifo.uni-potsdam.de until **October 22, 2018** stating your name, matriculation number and a list of courses you have taken at the Chair of Empirical Economics. We recommend successful completion of the courses “MA: Microeconomics” as well as “MA: Public Policy Evaluation”. The number of participants in the seminar is limited.

What we expect from participants:

1. Attending **all** sessions listed in the schedule
2. Complying with all deadlines listed above
3. Writing a seminar paper (maximum of 25 pages)
4. Giving a talk on your results during the final presentation
5. Discussing another seminar paper during the final presentation

Schedule:

Note: All sessions start at the exact time as listed (s.t.). The missing start times and locations will be published shortly on Moodle2.UP.

- 22.10.18 Pre-registration for kick-off meeting via e-mail
- 23.10.18 Kick-off meeting: 16:00 (room: **03.07.2.10**)
- 28.10.18 Official registration via e-mail with 3 ordered preferences of topics
- 30.10.18 Assignment of topics via e-mail
- 09.11.18-11.01.19 Regular sessions: Fridays, 10:00 (room: 03.01.1.65a)
- until 10.12.18 Registration on PULS for "Portfolioprüfung"
- 12.12.18 Interim presentation: 14:00 (room: **03.07.2.10**)
- 15.01.19 Submission of seminar paper until 12pm: 2x printed; electronic version via e-mail
- 18.01.19 Assignment of paper to be discussed via e-mail
- 24.01.19 Final presentation and discussion (room: tba)

Exemplory topics:

Note: Own suggestions of articles are welcome. Please note that the paper should utilize a regression discontinuity or difference-in-differences approach and cannot include the case-studies from the course Public Policy Evaluation. The data should be available online.

Auffhammer, M. and Kellogg, R. (2011): "Clearing the air? The effects of gasoline content regulation on air quality," *American Economic Review*, 101(6), 2687-2722.

Beach, B. and Jones, D. B. (2017): "Gridlock: Ethnic diversity in government and the provision of public goods," *American Economic Journal: Economic Policy*, 9(1), 112-36.

Borcan, O., Lindahl, M. and Mitrut, A. (2017): "Fighting corruption in education: What works and who benefits?," *American Economic Journal: Economic Policy*, 9(1), 180-209.

Freedman, M., Owens, E. and Bohn, S. (2018): "Immigration, employment opportunities, and criminal behavior," *American Economic Journal: Economic Policy*, 10(2), 117-151.

Introductory Literature - Replication:

Anderson, R. G., Greene, W. H., McCullough, B. D. and Vinod, H. D. (2008): "The role of data/code archives in the future of economic research," *Journal of Economic Methodology*, 15(1), 99-119.

Dewald, W., Thursby, J. and Anderson, R. (1986): "Replication in Empirical Economics: The Journal of Money, Credit and Banking Project," *The American Economic Review*, 76(4), 587-603.

Hamermesh, D. S. (2007): "Viewpoint: Replication in economics," *Canadian Journal of Economics/Revue canadienne d'économique*, 40(3), 715-733.

McCullough, B. D., and Vinod, H. D. (2003): "Verifying the Solution from a Nonlinear Solver: A Case Study," *American Economic Review*, 93(3), 873-892.

Chang, A., and Li, P. (2018): "Is Economics Research Replicable? Sixty Published Papers from Thirteen Journals Say 'Often Not'." *Critical Finance Review*, 7.