Syllabus for the Master Seminar

"Do-it-yourself (DIY): Research Idea Development"

EPQM: **MA-E-210 / MA-E-230 / MA-M-410 / MA-M-210 / MA-M-320**
MSc Econ: **MA-W-210 / MA-W-220**

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www.uni-potsdam.de/empwifo
University of Potsdam, Winter term 2026/27

This version: October 5, 2026

Course content and structure

This do-it-yourself (DIY) research seminar has two learning goals: In the first part, you will learn some essential skills for research in Economics, such as refereeing and discussing a paper, how to come up with own research ideas and how to write a research outline. We will provide you with an introduction into these skills. For two sessions a list of required readings is provided, you have to write a referee report on one of the papers and for each paper there will be one presentation and one discussion given by the students.

The second part of the course is for you to develop and work on your own research idea. At the end of the semester, you have to submit a research proposal. All ideas in the field of Labor Economics, Policy Evaluation, Population Economics, Political Economy, or related areas are welcome. We will support you with the development of ideas and also in case you want to request access to survey data (e.g. SOEP, BIBB BAuA) or admin data (e.g. IAB FDZ data). You are not expected to implement the idea in this course (no data work is required).

Registration

If interested in participating, please register by sending an email to *clara.wobbe@uni-potsdam.de* by **October 16, 2026** stating your name, matriculation number and a list of courses you have taken at the Chair of Empirical Economics including the grade you achieved. We recommend successful completion of the courses "MA: Microeconometrics" as well as "MA: Policy Evaluation".

Examination

The final grade will be awarded based on the performance in the following components:

- 2 referee reports (25%)
- 1-2 presentations/discussions (25%)
- Research proposal (50%)

Schedule

The seminar takes place **once a week on Monday or Tuesday**; however, it does not run every week. Please see the schedule below.
Note: Tentative schedule. Final schedule depends on enrollment.

Tue 13.10.26, 4 - 5 pm	Room H08	Kick-off meeting
Fri 16.10.26, midnight		Deadline for registration via email
Tue 20.10.26, 4 - 7 pm	Room H08	Lecture and Q&A: How to write a referee report? How to give a research presentation?
Tue 27.10.26, midnight		Referee report 1 due
Tue 03.11.26, 4 - 7 pm	Room H08	Presentation and discussion 1
Tue 10.11.26, midnight		Referee report 2 due
Tue 17.11.26, 4 - 7 pm	Room H08	Presentation and discussion 2
Mon 23.11.26, **10 - 12 am**	Room **S13**	Lecture and Q&A: How to come up with a research idea? How to write a research proposal/paper?
Tue 15.12.26, **10 - 12 am**	Room H08	First presentation of research idea
Optionally: January		Discussion of research ideas in additional session or individual office hours
Tue 19.01.27, **10 - 12 am**	Room H08	Final presentation of research idea
Deadline tba		Research proposal due