

Syllabus
Special module (Seminar Course):
Empirical Economics: Women and Men in the Labor Market

Bachelor in Economics

Modules: Special module "Quantitative Methods" (Spezialmodul Quantitative Methoden)
Module numbers: 10102401 (Lecture) & 10102410 (Seminar)

Lecturer: Prof. Natalia Danzer, Ph.D.; Teaching assistant: Denise Barth, M.Sc.

Content & Aim of the Course

The aim of this course is to introduce students to modern microeconomic methods for policy evaluation aimed at estimating causal effects (treatment effects) in the area of labor economics. In the lecture part, we will cover empirical methods as well as basic labor economic theories. We will cover microeconomic methods of policy evaluation such as Instrumental Variables, Regression Discontinuity, Difference-in-Differences and Panel Data/Fixed Effects. We will discuss these methods in the context of current research questions related to differences in labour market behavior and outcomes between men and women in industrialized economies and developing countries. In the seminar part, students will be given the opportunity to apply their knowledge while their own research projects. This includes critical reading and discussion of research papers applying these modern empirical methods to micro data. Moreover, students will learn how to apply the methods in hands-on empirical exercises with real-world micro data, using the statistical software package STATA (FU students can download the free campus license via ZEDAT to their personal computers or use the computer lab). At the end of the course, students should have acquainted the skills to (i) critically read, present, and discuss empirical journal articles in the field of labor economics, (ii) learn how to work with micro data, conduct first own analyses and (iii) write own research papers based on own empirical analyses.

Examples of research questions and topics

- How large is the gender pay gap and what are potential explanations of the gender pay gap?
- Why are there differences in earnings and occupations between women and men?
- How do economic or family policies affect male and female labour supply and gender inequality?
- How do economists measure and test for discrimination in the labor market? Are quotas an effective policy tool?
- How do empirical economists assess the role of gender norms for labor market outcomes?

Methods Covered

- OLS and Causality, Omitted Variable Bias, Counterfactual, Potential Outcomes Framework
- Randomized Control Trials
- Instrumental Variables Approach
- Regression Discontinuity Design
- Panel Data Methods
- Difference-in-Difference Approach

Main textbooks

- Blau, F.D., Winkler, A.E. (2018), The Economics of Women, Men, and Work (8th edition), Oxford University Press, New York
- Stock J, Watson MW (2018). Introduction to Econometrics. 4 ed. New York: Prentice Hall.
- Cunningham, S. (2021). Causal inference: The Mixtape. Yale University Press.
- Angrist, Joshua, und J.-S. Pischke (2014). Mastering Metrics: The path from cause to effect. Princeton university press.
- Wooldridge, Jeffrey M. (2018). Introductory Econometrics. A Modern Approach. 7 ed. South-Western College Publishers.
- Kohler, U., Kreuter, F. (2008): Datenanalyse mit Stata. Oldenburg Verlag, München.

Regular meetings (lecture part)

Fr, 20.10.2023 08:30 - 12:00
Fr, 27.10.2023 08:30 - 12:00
Fr, 03.11.2023 08:30 - 12:00
Fr, 10.11.2023 08:30 - 12:00
Fr, 17.11.2023 08:30 - 12:00
Fr, 26.11.2023 08:30 - 12:00
Fr, 24.11.2023 08:30 - 12:00
Fr, 01.12.2023 08:30 - 12:00
Fr, 08.12.2023 08:30 - 12:00

Additional Block Meetings:

Additional meetings for the **seminar presentations (interim presentation in December and final presentation mid/end of January 2024)** will be announced at the beginning of the course

Prerequisites & prior knowledge

Knowledge of statistical concepts at the level of the bachelor courses “Statistik für Wirtschaftswissenschaftler”/“Introductory Statistics” and “Schließende Statistik”/“Statistical Inference” is assumed. It is highly recommended, that students have successfully participated in the course “Introduction to Econometrics”; knowledge of OLS is assumed. Knowledge of basic theories in labor economics (as covered in the course “Introduction to Labor Economics” is an advantage, but no mandatory requirement.

Anmeldung/Enrollment

Via Campus Management

Prüfungsleistung/Exam

- Term paper (about 12 pages)
- Presentation of term paper in seminar (approximately 30 minutes)
- Additional assignments (group assignments)

Kursprache/Course language

The course language is English. The term paper can be written in either English or German.

Contacts

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