## Module title
Policy Evaluation Methods

## Abbreviation
12-M-PEM-182-m01

## Module coordinator
holder of the Chair of Labor Economics

## Module offered by
Faculty of Business Management and Economics

## ECTS
5

## Method of grading
numerical grade

## Only after succ. compl. of module(s)
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## Duration
1 semester

## Module level
graduate

## Other prerequisites
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### Contents
This course offers an introduction to the fundamentals of causal inference and to widely used research designs in the social sciences. In the first part a framework for understanding causality is introduced. Specifically, the epistemological differences between association, intervention and counterfactuals are explained. Then it is shown why experiments are paramount in generating causal knowledge and which assumptions are needed for which level of the causal hierarchy. Finally, we will discuss two widely used approaches to causality in the social sciences, i.e. potential outcomes and directed acyclic graphs.

The second part is devoted to the research designs regressions analysis, difference-in-differences, instrumental variables, and regression discontinuity. The emphasis is how these research designs are for example applied to answer important questions in labor economics such as the effects of a minimum wage increase on employment or the effect of children on female labor supply and wages.

### Intended learning outcomes
The assumptions each research design requires in order to identify a causal effect will be at center stage of the lecture. Therefore the emphasis is to teach students what one needs to estimate in order to answer a given question. Further, the research designs are discussed such that students will be able to evaluate and apply these research designs to other questions and fields.

After the course, students should be able to understand the basic concepts and methods of causal inference; should be able to read and interpret research and judge its credibility. This course furthermore serves as a basis for subsequent master courses on statistical inference and estimation, i.e. on how to estimate.

### Courses
(type, number of weekly contact hours, language — if other than German)
V (2) + Ü (2)
Module taught in: English

### Method of assessment
(type, scope, language — if other than German, examination offered — if not every semester, information on whether module is creditable for bonus)
a) written examination (approx. 60 minutes) or b) term paper (approx. 15 pages)
Language of assessment: English
creditable for bonus

### Allocation of places
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### Additional information
Research track module in Master’s programme IEP

### Referred to in LPO I
( examination regulations for teaching-degree programmes)
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### Module appears in
Master’s degree (1 major) Management (2018)
Master’s degree (1 major) International Economic Policy (2018)
Master's degree (1 major) China Business and Economics (2019)
Master's degree (1 major) China Language and Economy (2019)
Master's degree (1 major) China Business and Economics (2021)
Master's degree (1 major) China Language and Economy (2021)
Master's degree (1 major) Social Science Sustainability Studies (2021)
Master's degree (1 major) Economathematics (2021)