Module title	Abbreviation
Policy and Management Evaluation Methods	12-M-PEM-242-m01

Module coordinator	Module offered by
Holder of the Chair of Labor Economics	Faculty of Business Management and Economics

ECTS	Method of grading	Only after succ. compl. of module(s)
5	numerical grade	--

Duration	Module level	Other prerequisites
1 semester	graduate	--

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 labour economics such as the effects of a minimum wage increase on employment or the effect of children on female labour supply and wages.

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.

Intended learning outcomes

At the end of the course, students should be able to understand basic concepts and methods of causal inference, as well as read, interpret, and assess the credibility of scientific publications. In addition, the course serves as preparation for advanced statistics and econometrics courses.

Courses (type, number of weekly contact hours, language — if other than German)

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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

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Workload

150 h

Teaching cycle

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Referred to in LPO I (examination regulations for teaching-degree programmes)

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Module appears in
Master's degree (1 major) Management International (2024)
Master's degree (1 major) Management (2024)
Master's degree (1 major) International Economic Policy (2024)
Master's degree (1 major) Economathematics (2024)