

Syllabus: “Research Designs for Causal Inference in Public Economics”

Dr. Zohal Hessami (zohal.hessami@uni-konstanz.de)
University of Konstanz, Department of Economics

PhD course – winter semester 2015/2016

Part A: Block lecture

Monday, 19/10/2015, 8:30-11:30, K503

- Organization of the course
- How to write a referee report
- How to find/design a research project
- Introduction on regressions and (quasi-)experiments

Tuesday, 20/10/2015, 8:30-11:30, K503

- Instrumental variables

Wednesday, 21/10/2015, 8:30-11:30, K503

- Difference-in-differences

Wednesday, 21/10/2015, 15:30-18:30, K503

- Regression discontinuity design

Thursday, 22/10/2015, 08:30-11:30, K503

- Extensions: Regression kink design, difference-in-discontinuities, etc.

Part B: Presentation of research proposals

Wednesday, 16/12/2015, 15:15-18:15, E403

- Presentation and discussion of proposals, individual feedback

Thursday, 17/12/2015, 15:15-18:15, E403

- Presentation and discussion of proposals, individual feedback

Deadlines: Individual referee report due on Monday, 23/11/2015, noon
Individual research proposal due on Monday, 14/12/2015, noon

Grading: 25% referee report + 60% proposal + 15% presentation of proposal

Main textbook

- Angrist, J.D. and J.-S. Pischke (2009). *Mostly Harmless Econometrics: An Empiricist's Companion*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press.

Additional literature

- Angrist, J.D. and A.B. Krueger (1991). Does Compulsory School Attendance Affect Schooling and Earnings? *Quarterly Journal of Economics* 106(4), 979-1014.
- Angrist, J.D. and V. Lavy (1999). Using Maimonides rule to estimate the effect of class size on scholastic achievement. *Quarterly Journal of Economics* 114(2), 533-575.
- Baskaran, T. (2014). Taxation and Democratization. *World Development* 56, 287-301.
- Card, D. and A. B. Krueger (1994). Minimum Wages and Employment: A Case Study of the Fast-Food Industry in New Jersey and Pennsylvania. *American Economic Review* 84, 772-793.
- Card, D., Lee, D.S. Pei, Z., and A. Weber (2015). Inference on Causal Effects in a Generalized Regression Kink Design. Upjohn Institute Working Paper 15-218. Kalamazoo, MI: W.E. Upjohn Institute for Employment Research. Available at http://research.upjohn.org/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1235&context=up_workingpapers
- Dahlberg, M., Lundqvist, H., E. Mörk (2014). Stimulating Local Public Employment: Do General Grants Work? *American Economic Journal: Economic Policy* 6(1), 167-192.
- Eisenkopf, G., Hessami, Z., Fischbacher, U., H. W. Ursprung (2015). Academic Performance and Single-Sex Schooling: Evidence from a Natural Experiment in Switzerland. *Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization*, forthcoming.
- Grembi, V., Nannicini, T., and U. Troiano (2014). Policy Responses to Fiscal Restraints: A Difference-in-Discontinuities Design. Harvard Economics Department Working Paper. Available at <http://ssrn.com/abstract=1852523>.
- Hahn, J., Todd, P. and W. van der Klaauw (2001). Identification of Treatment Effects by Regression-Discontinuity Design. *Econometrica* 69, 201-209.
- Hessami, Z. (2014). Appointed Versus Elected Mayors and Incentives to Pork-Barrel: Quasi-Experimental Evidence from Germany. University of Konstanz, Department of Economics Working Paper Nr. 2014-23. Available at <https://ideas.repec.org/p/knz/dpteco/1423.html>.
- Imbens, G. and T. Lemieux (2008). Regression discontinuity designs: A guide to practice. *Journal of Econometrics* 142, 615-635.
- Lee, D. S. (2008). Randomized Experiments from Non-random Selection in U.S. House Elections. *Journal of Econometrics* 142(2), 675-697.
- Lee, D.S. and T. Lemieux (2010). Regression Discontinuity Designs in Economics. *Journal of Economic Literature* 48(2), 281-355.
- McCrary, J. (2008). Manipulation of the running variable in the regression discontinuity design: A density test. *Journal of Econometrics* 142(2), 698-714.
- Waldinger, F. (2010). Quality Matters: The Expulsion of Professors and the Consequences for PhD Student Outcomes in Nazi Germany. *Journal of Political Economy* 118(4), 787-831.