

Experimental methods, Lecture and tutorial

Urs Fischbacher

Wednesday, 14:00-16:00, G530 (biweekly according to schedule)

Thursday, 8:30-9:00, G530 (starts at Thursday, October 25, 2007)

Content

Experiments have established their own role in economics as a source of knowledge. Experiments allow testing the behavioral assumptions underlying economic modeling; they provide tests the empirical validity of different models and permit to establish behavioral regularities even when not theory is yet available. Experiments also guide the researchers in the development of new theories. So, without experiments, prospect theory and social preference theories would be of relevance, since the relevance could not be proven.

This lecture gives an introduction into the experimental method in economics. It should enable you to design, plan, conduct, and analyze an economic experiment. Furthermore, it presents typical and prototypical experimental designs.

Preliminary schedule

Tutorials

Lectures

		25.10.2007	Introduction
31.10.2007	Paper and pencils experiments	01.11.2007	Types of experiments and some classical studies
		08.11.2007	7 Questions as a guide to an effective experiment
14.11.2007	Designing an experiment	15.11.2007	Experiments on individual decision making
		22.11.2007	Conducting experiments with humans
28.11.2007	Experiment in the Lab	29.11.2007	Experimental games
		06.12.2007	Programming an experiment with z-Tree
12.12.2007	Exercise: Design of an experiment	13.12.2007	Experimental markets
		20.12.2007	Stock market bubbles and rationality
09.01.2008	Exercise: Report on a design	10.01.2008	Bounded rationality models
16.01.2008	Introduction into z-Tree	17.01.2008	Data analysis
		24.01.2008	Psychological methods
30.01.2008	Exercise: Data analysis	31.01.2008	Field experiments
		07.02.2008	Neuroeconomics methods

13.02.2008 Conducting
experiments

14.02.2008 Neuroeconomic studies