Reading List: Econometric Methods for Program Evaluation

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Course Description:

This course will examine econometric methods for evaluating effects of program interventions. Typical interventions that might be of interest include job training or other active labor market programs, education programs (such as school subsidy programs), cash transfer programs, agricultural programs, or health programs.

The first part of the course will examine ex post evaluation methods that are applicable when data are available on persons who participated in the program and possibly also on a group of people who did not participate. We consider both the case where the program was randomly assigned and when assignment was not random. We will examine methods that include regression estimators, matching estimators, control function estimators, regression discontinuity methods, IV, LATE and MTE estimators.

The second part of the course will consider methods for ex ante evaluation, that is, methods for evaluating program interventions that do not yet exist or for evaluating alternative versions of existing programs. These methods typically make more extensive use of structural models. We will consider ways of specifying and estimating static and dynamic discrete models and examine numerous applications in labor and in development.

Course slides/notes will be available on the website http://athena.sas.upenn.edu/~petra/nyu.htm.

Course Requirements:

There will be two problem sets that will involve some theoretical problems and some work using datasets.

Readings:

The main references are class notes and the following book chapters:


“Impact Evaluation in Developing Countries: Theory, Methods and Practice” by Paul Glewwe, Petra Todd and Associates, book manuscript (available on the website)

(1) Ex Post Evaluation Methods


(2) *Ex Ante Evaluation Methods*


Some references on nonparametric Methods


