

COURSE SYLLABUS

Doctoral course: CAUSAL INFERENCE IN APPLIED ECONOMICS WITH FOCUS ON REGIONAL ECONOMICS, ECONOMICS OF ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND INNOVATION, 3 credit points

Course code:
Reviewed by: RFB
Approved by: RFB
Valid as of: 2021-04-15
Version: I
Reference number:

Education Cycle: Third cycle, doctoral program course
Doctoral programme subject: Economics

Purpose:

Recovery of causal relationships in data is an essential part of scholarly inquiry in the social sciences. This course discusses strategies that have been successfully used in regional economics, the economics of entrepreneurship and innovation for recovering such causal relationships.

The course is devised to ensure that participants learn about a specific set of empirical methods in regional economics, the economics of entrepreneurship and innovation and about (the reality of) how to do applied research. At the same time, it tries to convey the enjoyment of doing economic research and requires participants to be creative and productive.

Intended learning outcomes:

On completion of the course, the students will be able to:

Knowledge and understanding

1. Demonstrate specialized knowledge about methods used for economic analyses.
2. Demonstrate knowledge about data processing and data handling.
3. Design and validate the empirical design used by others and in the own research.

Skills and abilities

4. Demonstrate the ability to apply economic models and use them to analyze and assess complex economic phenomena.
5. Demonstrate the ability to gather and process various kinds of data for economic analyses.
6. Analyze and critically assess different methods and methodological choices.
7. Demonstrate the ability in speech and writing to clearly report and discuss his or her conclusions as well as the knowledge and arguments on which they are based in dialogue with others.

Judgement and approach

8. Demonstrate the ability to make complex assessments in economics, taking into account relevant methodological issues.

Type of Instruction/Teaching format:

After a brief introduction on research methods for empirical identification and on selected hot topics in regional economics, the economics of entrepreneurship and innovation, the main part of the course consists of sessions to discuss papers that everyone has read in advance and of sessions where everybody presents and discusses one of his/her ongoing paper projects. Thus, the course is built around several seminars.

Prerequisites:

Admitted to a doctoral programme in Economics or Business administration, or equivalent.

Examination and grades:

The course will be examined in the following way:

- Writing a course paper based on a research topic chosen by the PhD student, fulfill ILOs 1-6, 8.
- Present the course paper on a discussion seminar, fulfill ILOs 6-7.

Both examinations are done on an individual basis.

The grades for the course are “pass” or “fail”.

Course evaluation:

A course evaluation will be conducted at the end of the course.

Literature:

Articles and book-chapters, information is provided to course participants before the start of the course.