

Methods for Evaluating Social Programs

June 2-5, 2014 at Uppsala University, Sweden

The course is lectured by Professor Petra E. Todd, Alfred L. Cass Term Professor of Economics, University of Pennsylvania

Place: Ekonomikum, Kyrkogårdsgatan 10, [Lecture hall 1](#)

Monday, June 2

09.00 – 12.00 **The evaluation problem, random assignment, regression estimators**

12.00 – 13.00 Lunch at Restaurant Humlan, Ekonomikum

13.00 – 14.00 **Redistribution and moral hazard in universal health insurance:
An empirical study using Swedish micro data**
Gabriella Chirico, Uppsala University

14.00 – 14.30 Coffee

14.30 – 15.30 **Risk preference measurement among farmers, evidence from a
field experiment in Burkina Faso**
Mohammad Sepahvand, Uppsala University

Tuesday, June 3

09.00 – 12.00 **Review of kernel density and regression estimators, matching
methods, control function, instrumental variables, local average
treatment effects marginal treatment effects and regression
discontinuity**

12.00 – 13.00 Lunch at Restaurant Humlan, Ekonomikum

13.00 – 14.00 **Preferential voting, accountability and promotions into political
power: evidence from Sweden**
Johanna Rickne, Columbia University (SIPA), Research Institute for
Industrial Economics and Uppsala Center for Labor Studies.

14.00 – 14.30 Coffee

14.30 – 15.30 **The short-term effects of school consolidation on student achievement**
Louise Beuchert, Aarhus University, School of Business and Social Sciences.

18.00 Dinner at Restaurant Peppar Peppar

Wednesday, June 4

09.00 – 12.00 **Use of static and dynamic discrete choice models for ex ante evaluation**

12.00 – 13.00 Lunch at Restaurant Humlan, Ekonomikum

13.00 – 14.00 **The distribution of lifetime earnings returns to college**
Martin Nybom Stockholm University (SOFI) and IFAU

14.00 – 14.30 Coffee

Thursday, June 5

09.00 – 12.00 **Estimating discrete choice dynamic programming models and examples**

12.00 – 13.00 Lunch at Restaurant Humlan, Ekonomikum

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), or health programs.

The first part of the course will examine ex post evaluation methods that are applicable after the program has been implemented and 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 consider questions related to implementation and design of randomized experiments and methods for nonexperimental data, including regression estimators, matching estimators, control function estimators, regression discontinuity methods, IV and LATE estimators, and MTE estimators.

The second part of the course will consider methods for ex ante evaluation, that is, methods for evaluating programs that do not yet exist or for evaluating modified versions of existing programs. These methods typically make more extensive use of structural models. We will consider mainly static and dynamic discrete choice finite horizon models as frameworks for social policy evaluation. It is recommended that students who take this course have a good background with microeconomic methods, including panel data methods and nonparametric regression/density .