Impact Evaluation | ECP77033

Year	1
ECTS Credits	5
Contact Hours	10 hours of lectures and 5 hours of tutorials
Pre-Requisite	nil
Semester	1
Module Leader and Lecturer	Professor Carol Newman
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Module Outline:

What is impact evaluation? How can we neatly identify the causal impact of a certain program or policy or event on the outcomes of interest? Which tools do we have at disposal? This module will address these questions, by focusing on the selection problem that typically arises in impact evaluation studies. We will discuss ways in which properly designed studies can address it. We will dedicate the first part of the module to discuss the design of sound experiments (randomized controlled trials). We will then discuss alternative solutions, for settings in which experiments are not feasible and/or desirable. Although the tools studied in this module have a broad application, examples and case studies will be taken mostly from the development economics literature.

Topics covered in this module include:

- Impact Evaluation and the Selection Problem;
- Randomized Controlled Trials;
- Non-Experimental approaches: Difference-in-Difference; Instrument Variable; Regression Discontinuity

Module Learning Outcomes:

The module will partly build upon the econometric module from the first term, although the focus is going to be more on the application of the tools. On completion of the module students should be able to use a variety of tools to design and run a rigorous impact evaluation studies. Students will be familiar with set of tools available to address selection problems, and will have a full understanding of their application, both from a theoretical and a practical point of view.

Assessment:

Assessment for this module is based on problem sets (30%) and a final 1.5 hour examination (70%)

Recommended Reading List:

The main textbook for this course is:

Angrist, J.D., and Pischke, J.S. (2015) Mastering Metrics: The Path from Cause to Effect.

This will be supplemented with additional papers. A full reading list will be provided at the beginning of the module.