BA Seminar: Development Policy Evaluation

Summer Semester 19 - Syllabus (last update: January 7th)

Description:
In this seminar we will study popular approaches to alleviate poverty in developing countries. In particular, we will focus on studies that evaluate the impact of development programs focused, for example, on the effect of education or microcredit interventions on various outcomes, such as educational achievements, school attendance, entrepreneurial activity, or child labor. In addition to learning about these different programs the students will be made familiar with the techniques necessary to evaluate them. This will prepare them for their BA thesis, in which they are expected to replicate and slightly extend an impact evaluation analysis in a published paper (many journals nowadays require the authors to make their data available on the journal website). In addition to a kick-off meeting in which the topics are introduced and the block with the presentations in July, there will be a Stata tutorial in May in which we will see what steps are necessary for such a replication undertaking.

Evaluation:
Students will choose a paper featuring an impact analysis either from the list of papers below or from the website of the American Economic Journal: Applied Economics (https://www.aeaweb.org/aej-applied/), the major outlet for this type of studies. This paper will be presented in June. In addition, a short report on the paper has to be submitted. The report should then be used as the starting point for the BA thesis.

Topics:
We will discuss possible articles (example studies are listed below) in the preliminary meeting. Students are free to suggest papers of their own choice as long as they fit to the seminar topic. Papers should be selected until May 15th in the following way. Please, send me a ranking of your favorite twelve (= #participants) articles until May 15th. Topics will then be assigned with the random serial dictator mechanism.

Organizational details:
All course materials are on ILIAS. Please register there asap.

Preliminary Meeting: April 24th, 17:00-18:30 (room: tba)

- Stata Session: tba
- The report and the presentation slides are due on June 27th at 23:59.
- Presentations are on June 28th and 29th, 10:00-18:00 (room: tba; participation is mandatory on both days).
- Presentations and Report are in English
Example Papers:


