
Fundamentals and methods for impact evaluation of public policies

Course programme

13-18 February 2017

Palazzo Cavalli Franchetti, Venice (Italy)

MONDAY 13 FEBRUARY

08.45-09.00 **Introduction**
Antonio Schizzerotto, Director of FBK-IRVAPP
Gherardo Ortalli, President of IVSLA

09.00-12.30 **Ugo Trivellato**

10.30-11.00 coffee break

- Introduction to impact evaluation.
- Potential outcomes and the fundamental problem of causal inference.
- Conditions for learning about the causal effects of a programme.
- Causal parameters and selection bias.

12.30-14.30 lunch and break

14.30-18.00 **Ugo Trivellato**

16.00-16.30 coffee break

- A taxonomy of selection processes and identification strategies: selection bias as a heterogeneity problem; random assignment; selection on observables; selection on unobservables.
- Internal and external validity of an evaluation design.
- Evaluation strategies and data requirements: prospective vs. retrospective evaluation, data requirements.

TUESDAY, 14 FEBRUARY

09.00-12.30 **Enrico Rettore**

10.30-11.00 coffee break

- Impact evaluation in an experimental setting: design and implementation of randomized experiments; minimum detectable effects.
- Impact evaluation in an observational setting, selection on observables (I): stratification and matching; curse of dimensionality.

12.30-14.30 lunch and break

14.30-18.00 **Loris Vergolini**

16.00-16.30 coffee break

Training session – Introduction to regression; estimation of the Average Treatment effect on the Treated (ATT) via regression.

WEDNESDAY, 15 FEBRUARY

09.00-12.30 **Enrico Rettore**

10.30-11.00 coffee break

- Impact evaluation in an observational setting, selection on observables (II): propensity score and matching.
- Impact evaluation in an observational setting, selection on observables (III): operationalising matching.

12.30 lunch

p.m. **Free afternoon**

THURSDAY, 16 FEBRUARY

09.00-10.30 **Loris Vergolini**

- Impact evaluation in an observational setting, the case of selection based on discontinuity rules: Sharp and Fuzzy Regression Discontinuity Design (RDD).

10.30-11.00 coffee break

11.00-12.30 **Guest speaker (TBA)**

12.30-14.30 lunch and break

14.30-18.00 **Loris Vergolini**

16.00-16.30 coffee break

- *Training session* – Sharp and fuzzy RDD.

FRIDAY, 17 FEBRUARY

09.00-10.30 **Enrico Rettore**

- Impact evaluation in an observational setting, the case of selection on unobservables (I): longitudinal estimators: difference-in-differences for panel data and repeated cross-sections; estimators and standard errors.

10.30-11.00 coffee break

11.00-12.30 **Guest speaker (TBA)**

12.30-14.30 lunch and break

14.30-18.00 **Erich Battistin**

16.00-16.30 coffee break

- Impact evaluation in an observational setting, the case of selection on unobservables (II): the Instrumental Variables (IV) estimator; weak instruments; heterogeneity of the causal effect and characterization of the sub-population to which the IV estimator refers to.
- Evaluation designs, testable implications and over-identification tests.

SATURDAY, 18 FEBRUARY

09.00-12.30 **Teaching assistant**

10.30-11.00 coffee break

- *Training session* – Propensity score matching and difference-in-differences.

12.30-14.00 lunch and break

14.00-16.00 **Erich Battistin, Enrico Rettore and Ugo Trivellato**

- Questions & Answers session.
- **Closing.**