

Labour and Innovation Economics

Course Lecturer:

Fabian Waldinger

fabian.waldinger@econ.lmu.de

Assessment:

The grade will be based on the term paper and the presentation in the block seminar.

Dates:

Assignment of Topics: Friday, 31st of May
Deadline for submission of Term paper: Friday, 28th of June, 6pm
Presentation in Block Seminar: 5th of July, 9.30am – 6pm

Term paper:

Length: Maximum 45,000 characters (please provide a character count, the count should include all tables and figures and references), this will be strictly enforced

Type: You have two options for writing the term paper:
1) *Research proposal*: detailed outline of a research idea related to the topics covered in the lectures
2) *Paper evaluation*: Critical evaluation of the 1-3 papers assigned to you

Choosing the type: By Wednesday evening 6pm, 29th of May, you should send me an e-mail confirming whether you want to write a research proposal or go for the paper evaluation option.

If you go for a paper evaluation your e-mail should include a ranking over the following topics (where 1 means most preferred and 8 means least preferred)

- 1) The effect of female board quotas on firms
- 2) Emigration of Soviet Scientists from Russia
- 3) The effect of the Jewish Elite on Russian regions
- 4) The effect of discrimination on firms
- 5) The effect of universities on regional innovation
- 6) The effect of superstar scientists on collaborators and their fields
- 7) Gender and signal attribution in high-skilled occupations
- 8) Falling communication costs and the effect on science

I will then allocate papers as follows:

I will draw a random number for each person who wants to do a paper evaluation. I will then start with allocating the most preferred paper to the person with random number 1. I will then the most preferred paper (among remaining papers) to the person with random number 2, and so on.

Process:

Research proposal:

If you decide to write a research proposal you should e-mail me the title of your research proposal by Friday 31st of June

Paper evaluation:

If you decide to do a paper evaluation I will e-mail you the assigned papers on Friday, 31st of May

Structure

Research proposal:

The structure for the research proposal is flexible but I highly recommend the following structure:

- 1) Introduction
Short introduction of the topic and relevant literature (do not simply list papers and their findings but provide an overview of findings) – this whole section should be relatively brief
- 2) Exact research question
This should be formulated as precisely as possible
- 3) Identification strategy
Discuss how you want to identify the effect that you want to isolate
Write down an exact estimation equation
Discuss crucial assumptions and potential violations of these assumptions
Be very specific about the unit of observation
- 4) Data
Be very precise about the dataset(s) that you want to use to analyse your question
Where can you get them?
Ideally provide some summary statistics using that data

Paper Evaluation

- 1) Introduction
Briefly describe the topic
- 2) Summarize the papers' findings
- 3) Describe the identification strategy
Be precise about the relevant estimation equation for the main results and what assumptions need to hold so that the authors obtain consistent results
- 4) Discuss the validity of the identification assumptions
- 5) Conclusion
Briefly describe what we have learned from these papers

For both types of assessment the most important part will be the clear description of the identification strategy, and a clear discussion of the potential problems that could affect the validity of the results