Meta-Research in Economics

Lecturer: Dr. Stephan Bruns
Language: English
Credits: 6
Format: Lecture + Exercise + Block Course for Presentations
Room: Moritzstr. 25-31 Systembau2 - Room 0206 (Tuesday) + Nora-Platiel 5, Room 1108 (Wednesday)
Time: Tuesday 14:15-15:45 (Lecture) and Wednesday 12:15-13:45 (Exercise)
First Lecture: 26.05.2015
First Exercise: 27.05.2015
Block Course for Presentations: 3.07.2015 (16:00-21:00) and 4.07.2015 (9:00-18:00)
Requirements: Good knowledge of basic statistics and econometrics
Contact: bruns@uni-kassel.de

Format
The lecture starts on May 26 and discusses publication selection biases and meta-regression models. The exercise starts on May 27 and students will use the statistical software R to deepen their understanding of topics covered in the lecture. Each student presents one article in a block course on July 3 and 4. The list of potential articles is announced during the lecture.

Credit Requirements
Written exam (60%) as well as presentation of an article and active participation at the block course (40%).

Structure of the Lecture
The seminal work “Why most published research findings are false” (Ioannidis, 2005) induced a broad discussion about the credibility of empirical research across all scientific disciplines. If scientists face incentives to publish statistically significant or even theory-confirming results, the findings in published articles may be distorted and misleading. We discuss different types of publication selection biases and their consequences for the credibility of empirical research in economics.

The second part of the lecture introduces meta-regression models that integrate the findings of different articles (Stanley, 2001). The aim of these models is to detect publication selection biases and to identify the presence of genuine empirical effects. We will discuss how these models are used to
synthesize the findings of experimental studies and what issues occur if these models are applied to findings of observational studies.

1. Publication Selection Bias
   1.1. Credibility of Empirical Research
   1.2. Flexibility of Observational Research Designs
   1.3. Incentives in Academic Publishing

2. How can we improve credibility?
   2.1. Meta-Analysis of Experimental Designs
   2.2. Meta-Analysis of Regression Slopes
   2.3. Other Approaches

References


Literature

To be announced during the lecture.