

404050 VU Empirical Economics: Impact Evaluation

Organizational Information

Who we are

Lecturer:

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Teaching Assistant:

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How to contact us

- ▶ Please email me or Elias Balayan to schedule an appointment.
- ▶ In between the sessions, you can also use the OLAT forum to ask questions. The questions will be public so that others can benefit from the answers as well.

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Timetable

- ▶ **Lectures:**

Wed. 02.10. - 04.12.

- ▶ **Exam:**

Wed. 11.12.

- ▶ **Work on empirical projects:**

December - January

- ▶ **Seminar day:**

Wed. 31.01.

Class material

All material will be uploaded to or linked on the OLAT page of the course

- ▶ Lecture slides
- ▶ Textbooks
- ▶ Research articles
- ▶ Data for empirical projects

Textbooks

Central textbooks:

- ▶ Gertler, P. J. et al. (2016). *Impact Evaluation in Practice*. 2nd Edition, World Bank Publications.
www.worldbank.org/ieinpractice
- ▶ Huntington-Klein, N. (2021). *The Effect: An Introduction to Research Design and Causality*. CRC Press.
<https://theeffectbook.net/>

Supplementary econometrics textbooks:

- ▶ Cunningham, S. (2021). *Causal Inference: The Mixtape*. New Haven: Yale University Press.
<https://mixtape.scunning.com/>
- ▶ Angrist J. and J-S Pischke (2014). *Mastering Metrics*, Princeton University Press.
- ▶ Angrist J. and J-S Pischke (2009). *Mostly Harmless Econometrics*, Princeton University Press.

In addition, we will discuss some research articles that I will make available to you.

Examination

- ▶ **Own empirical project** (in groups of 2 to 3 students) (40%)
 - ▶ Presentation during seminar day
 - ▶ Report
 - ▶ More details on the empirical project in the coming weeks
- ▶ **Short-exams** (15%)
 - ▶ Three unannounced short exams at the beginning of the respective session
 - ▶ On the topic of the required reading for the session
- ▶ **Final exam** (35%)
- ▶ **Participation in class** (10%)

What is expected of you

- ▶ Active participation throughout the course
- ▶ Read the respective sections of the textbook & assigned research papers before class
- ▶ Theoretical and practical knowledge of econometric methods
 - ▶ This is not an introductory econometrics class
- ▶ Basic knowledge in working with R
 - ▶ For a refresher and more advanced materials, look at Prof. Zeileis' R-Introduction and R-Programming guides.
- ▶ Apply the knowledge you gain in this course