

Clase 2: Estructura de un trabajo de investigación en Economía I

La Introducción

Seminario de Tesis PEG
Econ 4600

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Universidad de los Andes

January 25, 2023

Agenda

- 1 Cronograma
 - Presentaciones
- 2 Review: Argumento
- 3 Secciones de un artículo de investigación publicable
 - Portada
 - Título
 - Abstract
 - Introducción

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Cronograma

Fecha	Actividad
Primera Parte	
Enero 23 - Febrero 1	Estructura y presentación de un trabajo de investigación en Economía
Febrero 6 - 22	Discusión individual con el profesor (horario de atención y horario de clase)
Febrero 27- Marzo 13	Presentaciones (15 min.) + Comentarios (5 min.) y discusión en grupo
Primer documento (Marzo 17) 30% Nota	
Marzo 20 - 24	Semana de Receso
Marzo 27 - 30	Discusión individual con el profesor (horario de atención y horario de clase)
Abril 3 - 7	Semana Santa (Semana de trabajo individual)
Segunda Parte	
Abril 10 - 19	Discusión individual con el profesor (horario de atención y horario de clase)
Abril 24 Mayo 17	Presentaciones (25 min.) + Comentarios (5 min.) y discusión en grupo
Documento Final en PDF (Mayo 28)	

Cronograma de Presentaciones

		Presentador 1	Presentador 2	Presentador 3
Feb 27	Presenta	Gutierrez Ardila, Elkin Eduardo	Gallego Gonzalez, Andres Felipe	Serrano Matiz, Gabriela
	Comenta	Gallego Gonzalez, Andres Felipe	Gutierrez Ardila, Elkin Eduardo	Forero Buitrago, Juan Camilo
Marzo 1	Presenta	Forero Buitrago, Juan Camilo	Reyes Rincon, Camilo	Neira Hernandez, Santiago
	Comenta	Serrano Matiz, Gabriela	Neira Hernandez, Santiago	Reyes Rincon, Camilo
Marzo 6	Presenta	Brand Forero, Daniela	Amado Morales, Laura Gabriela	Daza Pardo, Maria Valentina
	Comenta	Amado Morales, Laura Gabriela	Brand Forero, Daniela	Cedeño Ocampo, Gustavo Adolfo
Marzo 8	Presenta	Franco Laverde, Daniel Eduardo	Quiroga Sierra, Miller Santiago	Cedeño Ocampo, Gustavo Adolfo
	Comenta	Quiroga Sierra, Miller Santiago	Franco Laverde, Daniel Eduardo	Daza Pardo, Maria Valentina
Marzo 13	Presenta	Guerra España, Jorge Alberto	Velasquez Rey, Juan Nicolas	
	Comenta	Velasquez Rey, Juan Nicolas	Guerra España, Jorge Alberto	

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¿Cuál es su argumento?

- ▶ El mensaje central de un artículo académico es un argumento
- ▶ Regla #1 al escribir un paper según Goldin and Katz (2009):
 - ▶ Siempre es posible transformar un buen argumento en un gran paper.
 - ▶ Incluso si su argumento es digno de un Nobel, siempre puede convertirlo en un pésimo paper.

¿Cómo comunicar bien su argumento?

- ▶ El proceso de hacer la tesis es el proceso de construir un argumento.
- ▶ Podemos descomponer el argumento en tres partes (Chaubey, 2017):
 - 1 ¿Qué es lo que quiere responder? (R).
 - 2 ¿Cuál es la respuesta que ofrece? (A).
 - 3 ¿Cómo su pregunta y la respuesta que ofrece se relacionan con el conocimiento existente? (P).

¿Cómo comunicar bien su argumento?

Pasos

- 1 Establezca de manera concreta cuál es la contribución central y novedosa de su artículo.
- 2 Escribala en un párrafo.
 - 1 No escriba "Analicé datos sobre la compensación de ejecutivos y encontré muchos resultados interesantes".
 - 2 Explique cuáles son los resultados centrales. Por ejemplo, Fama y French 1992 comienzan su abstract con: "Two easily measured variables, size and book-to-market equity, combine to capture the cross-sectional variation in average stock returns associated with market β , size, leverage, book-to-market equity, and earnings-price ratios".

Destilar su única contribución central requerirá un poco de reflexión y dolor, en algunos casos descartar (aunque sea penoso) lo que no sirve

¿Cómo comunicar bien su argumento?

Estructura

- ▶ Asuma un lector (muy) impaciente → Entender la distinción de leer por gusto y por necesidad.
- ▶ Hay que organizar el paper en estilo “triangular” o de “periódico”, no en estilo de “novela”
 - ▶ Los periódicos comienzan con la parte más importante, luego completan los antecedentes para los lectores que continuaron y querían más detalles.
 - ▶ Un buen chiste o una novela de misterio tiene un largo desarrollo hasta el remate (*punchline*) al final.
 - ▶ Usted esta escribiendo un paper no una novela : ponga el *punchline* justo al frente y luego explique lentamente el chiste. Los lectores no se quedan para encontrar el mensaje en la Tabla 12.

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Portada

- 1 Título
- 2 Autor(es)
- 3 Abstract/Resumen
- 4 Clasificación JEL (Journal of Economic Literature) (2-5 códigos)
- 5 Palabras clave (2-5 palabras)
- 6 Pie de página
 - ▶ Información de contacto de los autores (email, universidad...).
 - ▶ Conflicto de interés y financiación.
 - ▶ Agradecimientos.

Housing Discrimination and the Toxics Exposure Gap in the United States: Evidence from the Rental Market

Peter Christensen, Ignacio Sarmiento-Barbieri and Christopher Timmins*

August 16, 2020

Abstract

Local pollution exposures disproportionately impact minority households, but the root causes remain unclear. This study conducts a correspondence experiment on a major online housing platform to test whether housing discrimination constrains minority access to housing options in markets with significant sources of airborne chemical toxics. We find that renters with African American or Hispanic/LatinX names are 41% less likely than renters with White names to receive responses for properties in low-exposure locations. We find no evidence of discriminatory constraints in high-exposure locations, indicating that discrimination increases relative access to housing choices at elevated exposure risk.

Key words: Housing Discrimination, Correspondence Experiment, Air Toxics

JEL Classification: Q51, Q53, R310

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Primer Filtro: Título

- ▶ Dado que el lector (muy) impaciente es importante capturar la atención rápido: título, abstract e introducción son claves.
- ▶ Hay docenas de artículos publicados todos los días, pero no hay una (buena) forma sistemática de mantenerse al día con esta nueva investigación. La gente generalmente ve la tabla de contenido de los principales Journals y Working Papers, y leer los títulos para encontrar documentos que son relevantes.
- ▶ El título entonces se vuelve fundamental.
- ▶ Hay varias estrategias
 - ▶ Títulos "cute"
 - ▶ "Star wars: The empirics strike back"
 - ▶ "Banks as Potentially Crooked Secret-Keepers"
 - ▶ "Are Residential Electricity Prices Too High or Too Low? Or Both?"
 - ▶ Títulos largos y explicativos
 - ▶ O algo en el medio (mi preferencia: "Unlocking amenities: Estimating public good complementarity")
 - ▶ Tmb estan los one words:

Elephants

By MICHAEL KREMER AND CHARLES MORCOM*

Many open-access resources, such as elephants, are used to produce storable goods. Anticipated future scarcity of these resources will increase current prices and poaching. This implies that, for given initial conditions, there may be rational expectations equilibria leading to both extinction and survival. The cheapest way for governments to eliminate extinction equilibria may be to commit to tough antipoaching measures if the population falls below a threshold. For governments without credibility, the cheapest way to eliminate extinction equilibria may be to accumulate a sufficient stockpile of the storable good and threaten to sell it should the population fall. (JEL Q20)

DAMS*

ESTHER DUFLO AND ROHINI PANDE

This paper studies the productivity and distributional effects of large irrigation dams in India. Our instrumental variable estimates exploit the fact that river gradient affects a district's suitability for dams. In districts located downstream from a dam, agricultural production increases, and vulnerability to rainfall shocks declines. In contrast, agricultural production shows an insignificant increase in the district where the dam is located but its volatility increases. Rural poverty declines in downstream districts but increases in the district where the dam is built, suggesting that neither markets nor state institutions have alleviated the adverse distributional impacts of dam construction.

Segundo Filtro: Abstract

- ▶ La mayoría de las revistas permiten entre 100 y 300 palabras. Obedezca este límite desde el inicio.
- ▶ La función principal del resumen es comunicar la contribución central y novedosa de su artículo
- ▶ Describa el contenido sin formulas o tecnicismos innecesarios.
- ▶ Di lo que encuentras, no lo que buscas. No escriba “se analizan los datos, se prueban los teoremas, se discute...”

Tercer Filtro (quizás el más importante): Introducción

- ▶ El un lector (muy) impaciente, si el título y el abstract capturaron la atención van a seguir por la intro
 - ▶ Tercer filtro de lectores.
 - ▶ Primeros tres/cuarto párrafos son claves.
 - ▶ Ideal comunicar su argumento desde el inicio (pregunta, respuesta, posicionamiento).
 - ▶ Existe una formula?

Tercer Filtro (quizás el más importante): Introducción

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 - ▶ Existe una formula? Si

The Introduction Formula by Keith Head

- ▶ Hook
- ▶ Question
- ▶ Antecedents
- ▶ Value-Added
- ▶ Road map

The Introduction Formula

Hook

- ▶ Attract the reader's interest by telling them that this paper relates to something interesting.
- ▶ What makes a topic interesting? Some combination of the following attributes makes Y something worth looking at.
 - ▶ Y matters: When Y rises or falls, people are hurt or helped.
 - ▶ Y is puzzling: it defies easy explanation.
 - ▶ Y is controversial: some argue one thing while others say another.
 - ▶ Y is big (like the service sector) or common (like traffic jams).
 - ▶ A story hook (perhaps relating to a common activity or an issue that affects a lot of people)

The Introduction Formula

Hook

- ▶ Things to avoid:
 - ▶ The bait and switch : promising an interesting topic but delivering something else, in particular, something boring. “all my friends are doing it” : presenting no other motivation for a topic than that other people have written papers on it.
 - ▶ The reader will be much more motivated to read the rest of the paper if you challenge his or her intuition right from the get-go.
 - ▶ Your readers are your audience. They have better things to do than read your paper. Make them interested in your thesis and convinced of your argument in the first two paragraphs.

The Introduction Formula

Hook: Examples I. Oster (2012)

1. Introduction

Five to ten percent of adults in Sub-Saharan Africa are infected with the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) and the primary mode of transmission in the region is heterosexual sex. For this reason, sexual behavior change is a major focus of HIV prevention efforts and understanding changes in behavior is important both for predicting the future path of the epidemic and for developing policy.

The Introduction Formula

Hook: Examples II (Albouy, 2020)

1. Introduction

Economic theory leans heavily on the idea that goods may be complements in consumption. While the joint demand for private goods has been studied extensively, little has been said about the joint demand for public goods. Studying the joint demand for public goods is difficult as individuals cannot purchase them directly, but only indirectly, such as through housing. To the best of our knowledge, no study has estimated the joint demand for public

The Introduction Formula

Question

- ▶ Tell the reader what this paper actually does.
- ▶ Think of this as the point in a trial where having detailed the crime, you now identify a perpetrator and promise to provide a persuasive case.
- ▶ The reader should have an idea of a clean research question that will have a more or less satisfactory answer by the end of the paper.
- ▶ The question may take two paragraphs. At the end of the first (2nd paragraph of the paper) or possibly beginning of the second (3rd paragraph overall) you should have the “This paper addresses the question” sentence.

The Introduction Formula

Antecedents

- ▶ Identify the prior work that is critical for understanding the contribution this paper will make.
- ▶ The key mistake to avoid here are discussing papers that are not essential parts of the intellectual narrative leading up to your own paper.
- ▶ Give credit where due but establish, in a non-insulting way, that the prior work is incomplete or otherwise deficient in some important way.

The Introduction Formula

Value-Added

- ▶ Describe approximately 3 contributions this paper will make relative to the antecedents.
- ▶ This paragraph might be the most important one for convincing referees not to reject your paper.
- ▶ A big difference between it and the earlier “question” paragraph is that the contributions should make sense only in light of prior work whereas the basic research question of the paper should be understandable simply in terms of knowing the topic (from the hook paragraph).
- ▶ “Antecedents” and “Value-added” may be intertwined.
- ▶ They may also take up to 3 paragraphs.

The Introduction Formula

Road-map

- ▶ Outline the organization of the paper.
- ▶ Avoid writing an outline so generic that it could apply to any paper (“the next section is the middle of the paper and then we have the end”).
- ▶ Instead customize the road map to the project and possibly mention pivotal “landmarks” (problems, solutions, results...) that will be seen along the way.
- ▶ But keep this short because many readers will now be eager to get to the heart of the paper.

This paper proceeds as follows. The following section provides background on the experimental design and sample. Section 3 discusses results on the discrimination- exposure relationship by toxic concentration and by distance to TRI facility. Section 4 discusses heterogeneity in the discrimination-exposure relationship by price and housing/neighborhood characteristics. Section 5 concludes.

The Introduction Formula

General Advice

- ▶ write the intro first but then read and edit it every time you compose other parts of the paper.
- ▶ Thus by the end, the intro will have received more attention, more times, than any other part of the paper.
- ▶ The introduction is not just important because of the “first impressions” idea that it will tilt the referee for or against you (though it probably will).
- ▶ It is also vital to making sure you know yourself what you are doing in the paper and why.
- ▶ If you can't write a good introduction, then you may be writing the wrong paper.

Ejemplo Introducción. A Contribution to the Empirics of Economic Growth. Makiew, 1992

- 1 This paper takes Robert Solow seriously.
- 2 This paper argues that the predictions of the Solow model are, to a first approximation, consistent with the evidence.
- 3 Yet all is not right for the Solow model.
- 4 We therefore augment the Solow model by including accumulation of human as well as physical capital.
- 5 To test the augmented Solow model, we include a proxy for human-capital accumulation as an additional explanatory variable in our cross-country regressions.
- 6 After developing and testing the augmented Solow model, we examine an issue that has received much attention in recent years: the failure of countries to converge in per capita income.
- 7 Finally, we discuss the predictions of the Solow model for international variation in rates of return and for capital movements.
- 8 Overall, the findings reported in this paper cast doubt on the recent trend among economists to dismiss the Solow growth model in favor of endogenous-growth models that assume constant or increasing returns to scale in capital.

Trabajo en Clase

- ▶ Identifique en la intro de su compañero
 - ▶ La estructura recién descripta
 - ▶ Si están presentes los siguientes componentes
 - 1 ¿Qué es lo que quiere responder? (R).
 - 2 ¿Cuál es la respuesta que ofrece? (A).
 - 3 ¿Cómo su pregunta y la respuesta que ofrece se relacionan con el conocimiento existente? (P).
- ▶ Es clara la contribución central y novedosa?
- ▶ Recuerde dar comentarios constructivos

Next Week

- ▶ El resto de las secciones
- ▶ Como hacer una buena presentación.
- ▶ HW: nueva intro + estructura del paper