

Experimental and Behavioral Economics in the Design and Evaluation of Social Interventions

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Purpose

This is an intensive course to introduce participants to the principles of experimental economics and how it can be applied to practical problems of prosocial behavior in the design and evaluation of prosocial interventions (i.e. interventions aimed at a behavioral change that contributes to the common good) in organizations and communities.

In particular, it aims to introduce experimental methods and the use of laboratory and field experiments as a tool to study economic behavior and empirically to test hypotheses derived from both economic theory and public policy.

At the end of the course, participants will have a greater understanding of the applicability of prosocial interventions on specific problems using experimental tools and a practical framework for developing, implementing and evaluating these interventions in their area of interest.

This course is designed for anyone interested in design, implementation and evaluation of pro-social interventions, including researchers, practitioners, policy makers and coordinators.

Goals

- Introducing an empirical basis from experimental and behavioral economics with a special focus on prosocial interventions.
- Familiarizing participants with the current challenges and problems when prosocial interventions are designed and evaluated
- Contributing with expertise on the use of applied econometrics tools in behavioral and experimental economics in the design and evaluation of prosocial interventions.
- In particular, each participant will have an individual action plan to apply what she/he has learned in the course according to her/his research interests.

Course Format

The course is participatory, with short presentations, discussions and group work. The number of participants allows individual guidance by the coordinator. The course content has been adjusted to fit the research interests, professional agenda and experience of participants.

Program Description

On the first day we will present examples of field experiments and examples of economic games. On the second day will discuss how an experimental design in the laboratory and field differences. In the afternoon we will present what economic theory says about social preferences and how it is used for successful pro-social interventions.

On the third day, the general framework is presented for designing a field experiment and work on pilot projects chosen by the participants of the course. In the afternoon the ethical aspects of

research using economic experiments and context will use the experiments as measuring tools in assessing the impact of interventions or be presented as a pedagogical tool.

On the coordinator

Sandra Polania-Reyes is an economist with a mayor in Anthropology from the University of Los Andes, PhD in Economics from the Università degli Studi di Siena and University College London. Her research interests are experimental economics and behavioral economics, early childhood development, applied microeconomics and design and evaluation of public policy.

References – Thematic Index

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