

Georgetown University  
INAF-383: Applied Econometrics for Development—Stata Practicum  
Preliminary Literature Search

**Due Date: April 22 (FRIDAY) at 11:59 PM ET**

**You must submit your document as a PDF file in Canvas.**

**The objective of a literature review in your final paper is to place your econometric analysis in the context of its contribution to the understanding of the subject under study.** In other words, you need to market your paper and sell your results. *What does your paper add to what we already know?* Specifically, you should briefly survey scholarly articles, books, and other sources relevant to the particular issue that you are investigating; you should describe the relationship of your work to previous studies (e.g., replicates an existing paper but adds new variables); and most importantly, identify any gaps in the existing research that your work fills. **This assignment will count toward 5 percent of your course grade.**

**EconLit:** A comprehensive and refined literature search can be conducting using *EconLit*, which is the American Economic Association's electronic bibliography and database. *EconLit* indexes more than thirty years of economics literature from around the world and is available through the Georgetown University Library site: <http://guides.library.georgetown.edu/az.php?q=econlit>. A good method to find papers that use your data is simply to search for the survey, e.g. "Demographic and Health Survey", "LSMS", "World Bank Enterprise Survey", etc. You can also go to the websites of the particular survey and find a list of published articles that use their data, e.g., <http://dhsprogram.com/Publications/Journal-Articles-by-Topic.cfm> and <http://www.enterprisesurveys.org/research>.

**Note that given the early stage of your empirical research at this point, this assignment will serve only as a draft of your literature review.** For Stata Problem Set 6, you should be ready to run some regressions and the first step is to specify an appropriate model. *There's no need to reinvent the wheel.* The existing research should inform the specification of your estimation equation(s), which you will need to adjust for the variables that may or may not be available in your particular dataset. The objective of this assignment is to ensure a thorough search of literature at an early stage of your regression analysis. Therefore, what you submit next week may simply be an inventory of what is known about your topic.

**What you submit for your Preliminary Literature Search can be simply be a short list and brief description of 3 to 4 papers that you will be referencing as you run your baseline regressions.** In its simplest form, you can just copy and paste the abstract and write 2-3 sentences per article describing how each will be useful for your regression analysis. For example, you will adapting the regression specification; you will code similar dependent and/or independent variables; or the paper provides the policy/qualitative context for your econometric analysis. For this assignment, you should spend your time searching and reading, not writing.

For your final paper, on the other hand, **you will be expected to rewrite and refine your literature review for your final paper so that your summary of the existing research connects directly to your final econometric results and provides the motivation for your topic.** For example, scant research exists on the subject or country, errors found in existing studies, new data has become available, etc. The scholarly articles assigned for the course all provide examples that you can follow in writing your literature review for your final paper. You'll notice that the published applied econometric studies assigned for class and those that you will find via *EconLit* include a review of the existing literature as either a separate section or integrated with the introduction to the paper (the current trend is to choose the latter style).

## Formatting

For your final paper, please follow the standard formatting used in the empirical economic literature. Specially, include a list of references **at the end of your paper** with full bibliographic citation. For your list of references at the end of your paper, you can follow either [Chicago Manual of Style Author-Date system](#), which the [American Economic Association](#) uses or [APA \(American Psychological Association\)](#), which I use.

In the text, all you need then is to write the last name of the author(s) last name with the year of publication in parentheses. For papers with more than three authors, I use the first author's last name and "et al.". No need for footnotes or endnotes. I use footnotes only to provide additional information that may take away from the narrative in the text. Do not use footnotes simply to cite references. Use (lastname(s) year) at end of sentence instead.

### EXAMPLES:

**Aterido, Reyes; Mary Hallward-Driemeier; and Carmen Pagés (2011). "Big Constraints to Small Firms' Growth? Business Environment and Employment Growth across Firms." *Economic Development and Cultural Change*, 59(3): 609-647.**

p. 612:

#### II. Literature Review

There is a growing literature that assesses the effects of the set of factors, policies, and institutions, commonly known as business environment or investment climate, on the performance of firms and economic growth. The methodologies used by these studies are very diverse. A number of studies have focused on cross-country variation to identify the effect of labor regulations (Botero et al. 2004; Heckman and Page's 2004), regulation of entry (Djankov et al. 2002), or a wide set of regulations (Loayza, Oviedo, and Servén 2006). These studies relate objective (de jure) measures of regulation at the country level to aggregate country outcomes. Although the results are suggestive of the importance of appropriate regulations for business development, they suffer from important methodological constraints, ranging from omitted variable bias to endogeneity concerns.

**Hou, Xiaohui and Ning Ma (2013). "The Effect of Women's Decision-making Power on Maternal Health Services Uptake: Evidence from Pakistan." *Health Policy and Planning* 28(2): 176-84.**

p. 176-7:

#### Introduction

The Pakistan Millennium Development Goals Report (2010), signed by the Government of Pakistan and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), highlighted the slow pro-

There are two important reasons to examine the relationship between women's decision-making power and their uptake of maternal health services. First, women with more decision-making power may be more likely to use maternal health services. In Pakistan, male dominance and prevailing traditional Islamic and cultural restrictions on women curtail women's decision-making in many aspects of their lives, including education, employment, use of medical services, and other economic and social activities (Amin 1995; Hakim and Aziz 1998). Thus, if a woman has little decision-making power in her household and her husband or the household head discourages her from using maternal health services, she will be unlikely to use those services (Mumtaz and Salway 2007). Secondly, a large body of research has attempted to explore intra-household decision-making power and its links with human development (Thomas 1990; Felkey 2005; Basu 2006; Lancaster et al. 2006). Though there is some evidence of a positive relationship between women's decision-making power and children's schooling, particularly in the literature on conditional and unconditional cash transfers to women as an instrument for improving women's decision-making power (Duflo 2003; Gitter and Barham 2008; Holmes et al. 2010), the evidence linking women's decision making and women's maternal health services uptake is still mixed (Bhatia and Cleland 1995; Sathar and Kazi 1997; Bloom et al. 2001; Fikree et al. 2001; Matsumura and Gubhaju 2001; Mumtaz and Salway 2005).