

## PRELIMINARIES TO SESSIONS 7 AND 8

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In sessions 7 and 8 we will re-estimate parts of La Ferrara, E., Chong, A. and Duryea, S., 2012, Soap operas and fertility: Evidence from Brazil, *American Economic Journal: Applied Economics*, 4(4):1–31.

As a preparation for session 7, please read the study by La Ferrara et al. (2012) in advance and pay special attention to the following issues:

**Background** 1. Is fertility an important outcome to look at? Why?

2. Why is it interesting to investigate the effects of TV on fertility?

3. Does Brazil offer a good case study? Why?

**Empirical strategy** 1. What is the identification strategy of the paper? What is the main challenge of this strategy?

2. What is the key identifying assumption of the paper?

**Data** 1. How is the key explanatory variable exactly measured?

2. What are the outcomes that are investigated? Why are these outcomes selected?

3. How is the measure of fertility constructed?

**Empirical model** 1. Consider the estimating equation (1) and the respective results table. What is the level of observations? What is the dimensionality of the model?

2. What are the further controls in the equation and why are they included?

3. How is the basic model extended in equations (2) and (3) and why?

**Results** 1. How do telenovelas affect fertility? What is the economic magnitude of the effect?

2. Is there effect heterogeneity? Why is this an interesting topic to explore?

**Arguing the case** 1. How do the authors try to distinguish between the effects of TV access and the effects of telenovelas? Is this strategy convincing?

2. How do the authors deal with the possibility that market entry by the TV company might be correlated with local fertility trends?