Causal Inference

Mixtape Session

MIXTAPE SESSIONS

Roadmap

Good and bad projects take the same amount of time

- The goal is not to explore the data; the goal is to create useful knowledge
- "All you can do is write the best paper on the question you're studying" – Mark Hoekstra
  - → Note he didn't say "Write the best paper you're capable of writing"
  - → He said **the best paper**
  - → Important therefore to choose the right questions ahead of time
- Slow down, think big picture, figure out exactly what your question is, and let that guide who is in your sample (and importantly who won't be), what time periods you'll pull, etc.

Selling your work

- If you don't advocate for your work, *no one will.*

- Network, network, network

- You will need to become an expert in 1.5 areas, and you will need experts in those 1.5 areas to agree

- Study the effective of rhetoric of successful economists who expertly communicate their work to others both in their writing of the actual manuscript, as well as the presentation and promotion of their work

Find your mentors and sponsors

- Working with senior people at some point becomes necessary
- Good news: many senior people want to help you
- Bad news: they don't know who you are and can't find you
- It's a two sided matching problem

Finding them

- Introduce yourself in socially appropriate ways!
- This is likely a friction for URM and females given their under-representation in the profession, and prejudices more generally
- Find allies; work networks; I'll be a resource if you need me

Al Roth story

- I wrote Al Roth in 2007 and like Robert Browning to Elizabeth Barrett introduced myself by saying "I love your book on twosided matching with Sotomayor with all my heart."

- We became pen pals and then he won the Nobel Prize

- Scared, I wrote to congratulate him on the day he won and he immediately asked to help me

- "Interpersonal favors are meant to be paid forward not backwards" - Roth to me after a *second* favor!

- Nobody can help you if you don't know them bc help, sponsorship and mentoring is a two sided matching problem

More readings

- I've put several deck of slides and helpful articles for you in the dropbox folder
- Jesse Shapiro's "How to Present an Applied Micro Paper"
- Gentzkow and Shapiro's coding practices manual
- Rachael Meager on presenting as an academic
- Ljubica "LJ" Ristovska's language agnostic guide to programming for economists
- Grant McDermott on Version Control using Github
  `https://raw.githack.com/uo-ec607/lectures/master/02-git/02-Git.html#1`