

Microeconometrics II

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Due: December 5th.

Choose a published paper the uses a DID estimator that was published before 2010, and in which the dataset is available (it may be that it uses public available data, and/or that it has replication files). Once you decide on your paper, sign up at this link. It must be a different paper for each student (and also different from the choices from last year students). Also, you cannot use a paper that will be used in the students' presentations.

1. (5 points) Briefly summarize the research question in the paper, and why it is interesting. What is the main parameter of interest?
2. (5 points) Briefly describe the empirical setting.
3. (40 points) Write a short referee report focusing on the implementation of the empirical strategy of the paper. Be sure to discuss the assumptions for validity of the empirical strategy of the paper, and also to discuss the inference methods used in the paper (among other things you think are important to be discussed).
4. (10 points) If the paper you chose does not have online replication files, use the available data to replicate its main results. If the paper you chose has online replication files, then the 10 points from this item will be considered in the next item.
5. (40 points) Re-analyze the results of the paper. You can, for example, consider the recent advances in the DID/policy evaluation literature, estimate the effects with alternative methods, check whether the results are robust to alternative specifications or alternative approaches for inference, you can provide some evidence that the assumptions the authors rely on are reasonable or unreasonable, you can check whether the inference method the authors are using is reliable, and so on. Imagine that you are an author of this paper, and this is your chance to improve it before submitting to a journal. Alternatively, if you find negative results for the paper, you can think of yourself as a nasty referee who wants to destroy the paper. The bottom line is that we want you to think and work carefully in an empirical application. Be creative!