Fundamentals and methods for impact evaluation of public policies

Course programme

18-23 February 2013

Istituto Veneto di Scienze, Lettere ed Arti
Palazzo Franchetti, Sala Alta,
Campo Santo Stefano - Venezia

IRVAPP - Istituto per la Ricerca Valutativa sulle Politiche Pubbliche
IVSLA- Istituto Veneto di Scienze, Lettere ed Arti

08.45-09.00   **Introduction**
Gian Antonio Danieli, **President of IVSLA**
Antonio Schizzerotto, **Director of IRVAPP**

09.00-12.30   *Ugo Trivellato*
10.30-11.00 coffee break

- Introduction to impact evaluation: preliminary remarks and concepts.
- Potential outcomes and the fundamental problem of causal inference.
- Conditions for learning about the causal effects of a programme.
- Causal parameters and selection bias.

12.30-14.30 lunch and break

14.30-18.00   *Ugo Trivellato*
16.00-16.30 coffee break

- A taxonomy of selection processes and identification strategies: selection bias as a heterogeneity problem; random assignment; selection on observables; selection on unobservables.
- Internal and external validity of an evaluation design.
- Evaluation strategies and data requirements: prospective *vs.* retrospective evaluation, data requirements.

TUESDAY, 19 FEBRUARY

09.00-12.30   *Erich Battistin*
10.30-11.00 coffee break

- Impact evaluation in an experimental setting: design and implementation of randomized experiments; minimum detectable effects.
- Impact evaluation in an observational setting, selection on observables (I): stratification and matching; curse of dimensionality.

12.30-14.30 lunch and break

14.30-18.00   *Erich Battistin and Loris Vergolini*
16.00-16.30 coffee break

- *Training session* – Introduction to regression; estimation of the Average Treatment effect on the Treated (ATT) via regression.

WEDNESDAY, 20 FEBRUARY

09.00-12.30   *Erich Battistin*

- Impact evaluation in an observational setting, selection on observables (II): propensity score and matching.
- Impact evaluation in an observational setting, selection on observables (III): operationalising matching.

p.m.   *Free afternoon*

THURSDAY, 21 FEBRUARY

09.00-12.30   *Enrico Rettore*

- Impact evaluation in an observational setting, the case of selection based on discontinuity rules: Sharp and Fuzzy Regression Discontinuity Design (RDD).
- Impact evaluation in an observational setting, the case of selection on unobservables (I): longitudinal estimators: difference-in-differences for panel data and repeated cross-sections; estimators and standard errors.

14.30-18.00   *Ugo Trivellato and Loris Vergolini*

- *Training session* – Presentation of the first case-study: the Italian "Mobility Lists" programme.

- *Training session (continued)* – Sharp and fuzzy RDD.

09.00-12.30   *Enrico Rettore*

10.30-11.00 coffee break

- Impact evaluation in an observational setting, the case of selection on unobservables (II): the Instrumental Variables (IV) estimator; weak instruments; heterogeneity of the causal effect and characterization of the sub-population to which the IV estimator refers to.
- Evaluation designs, testable implications and over-identification tests.

12.30-14.30 lunch and break

14.30-18.00   *Victor Lavy*

16.00-16.30 coffee break

- How responsive is investment in schooling to changes in redistributive policies and in returns?
- The friends factor: How students' social networks affect their academic achievement and well-being?

SATURDAY, 23 FEBRUARY

09.00-12.30   *Erich Battistin and Slavica Zec*

10.30-11.00 coffee break

- *Training session* - Presentation of the second case-study: the UK "Employer Training Pilots".
- *Training session* (continued) – Propensity score matching and difference-in-differences.

12.30-14.00 lunch and break

14.00-16.00   *Erich Battistin, Enrico Rettore and Ugo Trivellato*

- Questions & Answers session.
- **Closing**

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