Quantitative Impact Evaluation: Advanced Level

Description

This workshop introduces IPDET students to quantitative approaches used by social scientists to estimate and interpret causal effects for both experimental and non-experimental interventions. This is an intensive methodological and applied workshop aimed to develop quantitative skills in program evaluation methods and practice. Students will have the opportunity to compute the causal impacts for actual interventions by using state-of-the-art statistical and econometric techniques.

Goals

After completing this workshop, students will be able:

1. to understand the role of counterfactuals in program evaluation,
2. to acknowledge the differences between alternative empirical evaluation methods,
3. to compute average treatment impacts using actual datasets,
4. to summarize and interpret the data and results gathered from an impact evaluation,
5. to use statistical/econometric software for impact evaluation

Date: July 2nd to July 4th 2014

Content:

The workshop will cover the following topics:

1. The Potential Outcome Framework
2. Defining the counterfactuals
3. Estimating the average treatment impacts with experimental data
4. Estimating the average treatment impacts with non-experimental data
   4.1 The difference-in-differences approach
   4.2 Propensity score matching methods
      - Nearest-neighbor matching
      - Kernel matching
   4.3 Instrumental Variable Approach
   4.4 Regression-Discontinuity Estimator
4.5 Case studies and applications:
   5.1 Antipoverty interventions in developing countries
   5.2 Employment and training programs in developing countries
   5.3 Health interventions in developing countries
**Methodology:**

- in-depth lecture presentations,
- hands-on work with actual datasets,
- use of state-of-the-art econometric software.

**Requirements**

- Basic/intermediate statistical inference.