

# Quantitative Methods for Public Policy Evaluation

## Professor

Prof. Albrecht Glitz

## Overview and Objectives

The main challenge for policy evaluation is to establish a causal link between interventions and outcomes. The objective of this course is to introduce the main econometric approaches used in the evaluation of public policies: randomized evaluations, natural experiments, the regression discontinuity design, selection on observables, difference-in-differences, and synthetic control methods. The course presents strengths and weaknesses of each approach in terms of internal and external validity. During the theory sessions, each approach will be presented and illustrated with specific examples in the areas of labor economics, health economics, and the economics of education. In the practical sessions, we will replicate the results of a prominent published study for each evaluation approach in Stata. Students are provided the corresponding data and code in advance so they can prepare.

## Prerequisites

The participants of this course should be familiar with basic concepts of statistics and econometrics that are usually covered in an undergraduate degree in economics.

## Course Outline

This course provides an overview of the following quantitative methods:

1. Randomized Controlled Trials (RCTs)
2. Natural Experiments
3. Regression Discontinuity Designs
4. Selection on Observables (Linear Regression, Matching)
5. Difference-in-Differences, Event Studies, Synthetic Control Methods

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## Required Activities

Theory and practical sessions.

## About the Instructor

Albrecht Glitz is Associate Professor at Universitat Pompeu Fabra, Affiliated Professor of the Barcelona School of Economics, and Researcher at IPEG. He received his PhD from University College London in 2008. His research interests include labour economics, the economics of migration, and microeconometrics. His work has been published in the *American Economic Review*, the *Review of Economic Studies*, and the *Journal of Labor Economics*, among others.

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## Natural Experiments

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### **Selection on Observables (Linear Regression, Matching)**

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