China Center for Economic Research   Instructor:
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Labor Economics II: Empirical Strategies in Labor Economics

Course Description

This is the second of a two-part sequence of courses in graduate-level labor economics. The objective of this course is to train students in empirical strategies used in labor economics research, with a focus on practical application of identification methods. This course will cover several identification issues. For each issue, the class will first briefly introduce the underlying theoretical problem, then detail on the empirical strategy, and finally look at some specific examples using this strategy. These examples may include a variety of topics in labor economics such as education, health, welfare, migration, discrimination, etc. We will also discuss how to use the statistic software, mainly STATA, to estimate the models involved.

Grading:
The course grade will depend on class participation (10%), two problem sets (20%), two progress presentations (30%) and a term paper (40%). For the two progress presentations, you are expected to present (about 10 minutes) a proposal in the middle of the term, and then during the final one/two week(s), you need to present (15-20 minutes) again with the results. The final paper will be refined and completed based on the two presentations.

Course Contents (tentative):

（1） The Problem of Identification in Social Science
（2） Treatment Effect and Program Evaluation
（3） Roy model_ A Simple Case
（4） Instrumental Variable Estimation
（5） Panel Data: Fixed Effect Estimators
（6） Difference-in-Difference
（7） Propensity Score Matching
（8） Regression Discontinuity
（9） Other Topics

Course Materials:
   There will be a list of articles that are related to each topic. The reading list will be distributed before the first class.