Empirical Legal Studies - EMLE 2022-23

Modern Law & Economics is unthinkable without empirical test. This course familiarizes students with the most important aspects of such tests from the design stage, over the collection of data to the actual estimation of simple econometric models. The goal is for students to become an "educated consumer" of empirical evidence and interpret existing work as it relates to causality.

The course consists of several modules (see also detailed schedule below):

- *Module 0*: This module is focused on very basic preliminaries. Students should use the online platform for self-study during week 1. A separate email with login credentials has been sent.
- *Module 1*: This module focuses on the goal and set-up of empirical work, discusses the logic of statistical inference, and introduces the simple regression model. Students with an advanced background in statistics/econometrics may opt out of attending sessions 1 to 4 (see schedule below). Students do remain responsible for mastering the material covered in these sessions.
- *Module 2*: This module focuses on the assessment of empirical studies with respect to validity and causality. It reviews several pitfalls and solutions that are often encountered in the literature. These sessions are mandatory for everybody.
- *Module 3*: Show & tell Stata session. This module introduces students to statistical software used for empirical work. Basic data handling and regression analysis are covered in order to get a hand-o, experience of empirical work. This session is mandatory for everybody.
- *Module 4*: Stata Lab course. Students interested in becoming more proficient users of the statistical software package can join a Stata Lab course. These sessions are optional.

Material

Sessions 1 to 4 are largely based on "An Introduction to Empirical Legal Research" by Lee Epstein and Andrew D. Martin. (see http://empiricallegalresearch.org)

A good reference for sessions 5 to 8 are several chapters from "Introduction to Econometrics" by Stock and Watson. Note that this textbook is more technically oriented than the course which is focused on understanding empirical work.

Throughout the course empirical results from academic papers will also be discussed.

Epstein, L. and A. Martin, An Introduction to Empirical Legal Research, Oxford University Press (2014)

Stock, J. and M. Watson, Introduction to Econometrics, Pearson, 3rd or 4th edition

Empirical Legal Studies – Table of contents - EMLE 2021-22

0		Preliminaries (mean, standard deviation, linear functions, natural logarithms, derivatives, …): self-study	online platform
1	*Wed 11-01* *09:00 - 11:00*	Intro From theory to hypotheses (Epstein and Martin 2-3)*	Room 8.1
2	*Fri 13-01* *09:00 - 11:00*	Collecting and coding data (Epstein and Martin 4-5)* Descriptive statistics (Epstein and Martin 6)*	Room 8.1
3	*Mon 16-01* *09:00 - 11:00*	Statistical inference (Epstein and Martin 7)* Simple and multiple regression analysis (Epstein and Martin 8-9)*	Room 8.1
4	*Wed 18-01* *09:00 – 11:00*	Simple and multiple regression analysis (Epstein and Martin 8-9)*	Room 8.1
5	*Fri 20-01* *09:00 - 11:00*	Assessing studies based on Multiple regression analysis & causality (Stock and Watson 9)	Room 8.1
6	*Wed 25-01* *09:00 - 11:00*	Panel data analysis (Stock and Watson 10)	Room 8.1
7	*Fri 27-01* *09:00 - 11:00*	Instrumental variable estimation (Stock and Watson 12)	Room 8.1
8	*Wed 01-02* *09:00 - 11:00*	(Quasi) experimental designs (Stock and Watson 13)	Room 8.1
9	*Self study by* *Wed 08/02*	Stata Tutorial video	Self study
10	*Wed 08-02* *13:00 – 15:00*	Show and tell session STATA (statistical software package)	Room 4.1
11	*Fri 10-02* *13:00 - 15:00*	*Lab course STATA 1***	Room 4.1/video
12	*Mon 13-02* *09:00 - 11:00*	*Lab course STATA 2***	Room 4.1/video
13	*Wed 15-02* *13:00 - 15:00*	*Lab course STATA 3***	Room 4.1/video
	Tue 14-03 *09:00-12:00*	Exam (on campus, closed book)	Room 4.1

* Students with an advanced background in statistics/econometrics may opt out of attending sessions 1 to 4. Students remain responsible for mastering the material covered in these sessions.

** These sessions are optional. Students interested in mastering STATA (statistical software) to perform their own empirical work (e.g. for thesis) can join this lab course. Students decide at the end of mandatory session 10 to participate. Students enroll for all lab course sessions.