Methods for Ex Ante and Ex Post Policy Evaluation.

Monday 3 June – Tuesday 4 June 2013

This is a masterclass taught by Petra Todd (University of Pennsylvania).

This course will examine econometric methods for evaluating effects of program interventions. Typical interventions that might be of interest include job training or other active labor market programs, education programs (such as school subsidy programs), or health programs.

The first part of the course will examine ex post evaluation methods that are applicable after the program has been implemented and data are available on persons who participated in the program and possibly also on a group of people who did not participate. We consider both the case where the program was randomly assigned and when assignment was not random. We will examine methods that include regression estimators, matching estimators, control function estimators, regression discontinuity methods, IV and LATE estimators, and MTE estimators.

The second part of the course will consider methods for ex ante evaluation, that is, methods for evaluating programs that do not yet exist or for evaluating alternative versions of existing programs. These methods typically make more extensive use of structural models. We will consider mainly static and dynamic discrete choice finite horizon models are frameworks for evaluating social programs.

Programme

Monday 3 June

10.30 – 11.00 Registration and refreshments

11.00 – 12.30 The evaluation problem, random assignment, regression estimators

12.30 – 13.30 Lunch

13.30 – 15.00 Review of nonparametric methods

15.00 – 15.30 Break

15.30 – 17.00 Matching estimators, control function estimators

Tuesday 4 June

10.00 – 10.30 Coffee

10.30 – 12.00 RD, IV, LATE and MTE
12.00 – 13.00  Lunch

13.00 – 14.30  Use of static and dynamic discrete choice models for ex ante evaluation

14.30 – 15.00  Break

15.00 – 16.30  Estimating DCDP models and examples

Course notes will be available on the website: http://athena.sas.upenn.edu/~petra/ucl.htm

Readings

The main references are class notes and the following book chapters:


Supplementary suggested readings

(1) Ex Post Evaluation Methods


(2) Ex Ante Evaluation Methods


Some references on nonparametric Methods


