

Econ 628: Topics in Applied Econometrics

Class presentation

Each student will have to make a 40 minutes presentation of an empirical paper of your choice. The paper does not need to be a standard empirical paper with regressions, etc. A paper testing a specific model using a laboratory experiment is fine. So is a macro paper conducting a rigorous calibration exercise. But a paper starting with a couple of stylized facts and then developing a model to explain these stylized facts would not be acceptable. If you are not sure feel free to check with me.

You need to choose the paper you will present in class by **Thursday September 29** so that we can set up a schedule for presentations for the rest of the semester. All you need to do by September 29 is to write down your name, the reference for the paper you will present, and a couple of related references on a sheet of paper. It is fine to send this as an email but please also bring me a hard copy in class for my records. The reason for putting down a couple of related references is to help me prepare related material that we will also cover in class right after your presentation.

For the presentation itself, you need to prepare a handout or some other material (slides, power point document, etc.). Your grade for the presentation will mostly be based on the material you will have prepared for the talk. You will find that 40 minutes is a fairly short period of time to go through a paper. To help you organize your presentation, I suggest you structure your presentation around the following themes. Suggested times for each theme vary from paper to paper, but you need to plan in advance how much time you will spend on each part of the presentation if you want to cover all the important points in 40 minutes.

Suggested presentation structure

Background: Why do we care? What else is known about this problem? What are the limitations of previous studies? (5 minutes)

Methods: What is the model being tested? What data and econometrics methods are being used? (5-10 minutes)

Results: What are the main findings of the paper? (5-10 minutes)

Your view: Do you find the empirical results convincing? Is the identification strategy used convincing? How do you think the study could be improved? (15 minutes)

Conclusion: What do you make of all this? (5 minutes)