

Impact Evaluation using Observational Data

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Modern policy evaluation places a strong emphasis on transparent and convincing research designs that enable credible causal inference. While randomized controlled trials (RCTs) are considered the gold standard, they are often infeasible in economic settings. As a result, researchers frequently rely on observational data and quasi-experimental methods to identify causal effects.

In this seminar, we will examine recent empirical studies that apply methods such as instrumental variables (IV), regression discontinuity designs (RDD), and difference-in-differences (Diff-in-Diff). Our focus will be on understanding how these approaches address treatment endogeneity, and on critically evaluating the validity and robustness of causal claims in applied microeconomic research.

Studiengang: <i>Program:</i>	BSc
Termin Vorbesprechung (tt.mm.jjjj): <i>Date of preliminary meeting (dd.mm.yyyy):</i>	16.07.2025
*Bearbeitungszeitraum für die Hausarbeit: <i>*Working period for term paper:</i>	Semester break: August or September
*Seminartermin: <i>*Seminar date:</i>	17. & 24.10.2025
Veranstaltungsort: <i>Venue:</i>	LMU Munich
falls außerhalb: Kostenschätzung: <i>if out of Munich: estimated costs:</i>	€
Sprache: <i>Language:</i>	English
Empfohlene Vorkenntnisse: <i>Recommended courses:</i>	Empirische Ökonomie 1 Econometrics 2
Methodischer Schwerpunkt: <i>Methodological background:</i>	Microeconometrics
*Grundlagenliteratur: <i>*Basic references:</i>	1. Angrist, J. D., & Pischke, J. S. (2010). The credibility revolution in empirical economics: How better research design is taking the con out of econometrics. Journal of Economic Perspectives. 2. Angrist, J. D., & Pischke, J. S. (2009). Mostly harmless econometrics: An empiricist's companion. Princeton University Press.
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* Optional (falls schon bekannt) / optionally (if already known)