

PhD Reading Group on Causal Identification

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Objective

This reading group will provide a forum for PhD students to explore causal inference methods relevant to their research. Each participant will present and discuss a « benchmark » paper that employs a method they intend to use in their own work. The goal is to critically assess these methods, understand their strengths and limitations, and explore their applicability across different research topics.

Structure

- The group meets for 60-minute sessions.
- Each session features one participant-led presentation of a selected benchmark paper.
- The presentation should cover the paper's research question, data, identification strategy, key findings, and limitations.
- The end of the presentation should focus on how the method can be applied to the student's research.

Expectations

- Participants should choose a benchmark paper early in the semester and share it with the group in advance.
- The group will provide constructive feedback on how to apply the presented method in the presenter's research.

References

- Juliana Londoño-Vélez and Estefanía Saravia, "The impact of Being Denied a Wanted Abortion on Women and their Children", 2025
- Emmanuel Saez, Benjamin Schoefer, David Seim, "Deadwood Labor? The Effects of Eliminating Employment Protection for Older Workers", 2024
- Philippe Aghion, Maxime Gravouelle, Matthieu Lequien, Stefanie Stantcheva "Tax Simplicity or Complicity of Evasion? Evidence from Self-Employment Taxes in France", 2025
- Noémie Pinardon-Touati, "The Crowding Out Effect of Local Government Debt: Micr- and Macro-Estimates", 2025
- Matthew Smith, Danny Yagan, Owen Zidar, Eric Zwick "Capitalists in the Twenty-First Century", QJE 2019
- Elio Nimier-David, David Sraer, David Thesmar "The Effects of Mandatory Profit- Sharing on Workers and Firms: Evidence from France", 2024.
- Garbinti, Goupille-Lebret, Munoz, Stantcheva, Zucman, "Tax Design, Information, and Elasticities: Evidence from the French Wealth Tax", 2024.
- Cengiz, D., Dube, A., Lindner, A., & Zipperer, B. "The effect of minimum wages on low-wage jobs." The Quarterly Journal of Economics. 2019.
- Azoulay, Pierre, Christian Fons-Rosen, and Joshua S. Graff Zivin. "Does Science Advance One Funeral at a Time?" American Economic Review, 2019.

- Chen, Z., Liu, Z., Suárez Serrato, J. C., & Xu, D. Y. “Notching R&D investment with corporate income tax cuts in China”. American Economic Review, 2021.
- PINOTTI, Paolo. “Clicking on heaven’s door: The effect of immigrant legalization on crime”. American Economic Review, 2017.
- Beerli, A., Ruffner, J., Siegenthaler, M., & Peri, G. “The abolition of immigration restrictions and the performance of firms and workers: Evidence from Switzerland” American Economic Review, 2021.