

# Current Topics in Health Economic Research

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Office hours: By appointment.

If you need further information regarding the course please contact Diem.

## Course Description

The main goal of this course is to introduce students to contemporary cutting-edge research in health economics. The core of the course is frontier work in health economics presented in seminars by external scholars in Essen (Essen Health Economic Seminar, VWL Kolloquium, RTG research seminar) or digitally (EuHEA Seminar Series). Presentations cover topics like: public health program effects, innovation diffusion in drug markets, early life determinants of health, inequalities and health etc. Through the seminars the students will familiarise themselves with the research process in health economics. The seminar format is hybrid, with some of presentations available only online and some others with presence or online.

## Grading

- Assignments (10 points each): 3 Referee reports (each between 700-1000 words)
- Term paper (70 points): 1 research proposal (between 2000-4000 words) with presentation

## Background Literature

The core material of the course are the presented papers and there is no requirement for a textbook. This is a tentative list of various interesting readings that can assist you with the assignments and the term paper.

## Referee Report

- Berk, J.B., Harvey, C.R. and Hirshleifer, D., 2017. How to write an effective referee report and improve the scientific review process. *Journal of Economic Perspectives*, 31(1), pp.231-44.
- Daniel S Hamermesh. 1994. Facts and myths about refereeing. *Journal of Economic Perspectives*, 8(1):153–163.

## Research Proposal

- Varian, H.R., 2016. How to build an economic model in your spare time. *The American Economist*, 61(1), pp.81-90.
- Karlsson, M. and Hyde, N., 2010. How to Write a Term Paper in Economics, Technical University of Darmstadt.
- Tom Coupe. "Doing Research in Economics - A Guide for Beginners".
- McCloskey, D., 1985. Economical writing. *Economic Inquiry*, 23(2), pp.187-222.

## Some interesting papers about economic research

- Heckman, J.J. and Moktan, S., 2020. Publishing and promotion in economics: The tyranny of the top five. *Journal of Economic Literature*, 58(2), pp.419-70.
- Efthyvoulou, G., 2008. Alphabet economics: The link between names and reputation. *The Journal of Socio-Economics*, 37(3), pp.1266-1285.
- Gans, J.S. and Shepherd, G.B., 1994. How are the mighty fallen: Rejected classic articles by leading economists. *Journal of Economic Perspectives*, 8(1), pp.165-179.

## Econometrics

- Cunningham, S., 2020. Causal Inference. The Mixtape, 1. Yale University Press.
- *Econometric Methods for Program Evaluation*, Alberto Abadie and Matias D. Cattaneo, *Annual Review of Economics* 2018 10:1, 465-503.

## Assignments and Term Paper

### Assignments

- Specific recommendations on how to write a referee report will be provided in a separate document.
- Students are required to write 3 referee reports. One of them can be chosen freely by the student from any of the papers that are presented on the available seminars. The other two will be announced in advance by the teaching team.

- One report has to be written on the seminar presented by Silvia Angerer on November 7th, and another one has to be written on the seminar presented by Andrew Jones on December 5th.
- Referee reports should be approximately 2 pages (brief and to the point).
- Referee reports should summarize the presentation, discuss the identifying assumptions and comment on the paper.
- The reports should be written in English and may be checked for plagiarism and AI-written content.
- Send your report to me at [mobrizan@gmail.com](mailto:mobrizan@gmail.com) in PDF document named "report\_'n'\_surname\_first name".

### Term paper

- Specific recommendations on how to write a research proposal will be provided in a separate document.
- Students should develop a research proposal on a topic of their choice clearly connected to health economics.
- Rationale for the project, literature review, research hypothesis, intended methodology and expected outcomes.
- Suggest data that could be relevant for the proposed project.

### Schedule

Date	Time	Type of Class	Format
12.10.2023	14-16.00	Introduction & Advice on Assignments	Virtual
Every Monday	Varies	Essen Health Seminars	Hybrid (WST-C.12.09)
02.11.2023	14-16.00	War and (un)happiness in Ukraine	Virtual
09.11.2023	14-16.00	Health expenditures and longevity	Virtual
25.01.2024	14-16.00	Presentation of Research Proposal	Virtual

### Participation

You are asked to participate in 14 seminars. We expect your participation in 12 presentations of the [Essen Health Economics Seminar](#) series. You may choose the remaining two (or more in case of time conflicts) seminars from the [EUHEA seminar series](#), the [UDE Economics Department](#) seminar series or the [RTG Regional Disparities and Economic Policy seminar](#) series. It is strongly suggested to join the EHES series' e-mail list.