

Introduction to Modern Questions in Labor Economics

And the empirical tools to answer them

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Summary

This course is designed as an introduction to advanced topics in Labor Economics. The course will cover key themes in the literature, bringing in both relevant theoretical and empirical work.

Lectures

Lectures 1-2. The Human Capital Theory and Returns to Education

- Polachek, S. (2007). Earnings over the lifecycle: The mincer earnings function and its applications. *IZA Paper*, (3181)
- Becker, G. S. (2009). *Human capital: A theoretical and empirical analysis, with special reference to education*. University of Chicago press chapters 1-3.

Lectures 3-4. Methods in Labor Economics

- Instrumental Variables
- Two-way Fixed Effects
- Regression discontinuity
- Shift-share instruments
- Readings provided by instructor from “Causal Inference Mixtape” and “Mostly Harmless Econometrics.”

Lectures 5. Automation

- Acemoglu, D., & Restrepo, P. (2018). Modeling automation. *AEA Papers and Proceedings*, 108, 48–53
- Autor, D. H. (2015). Why are there still so many jobs? the history and future of workplace automation. *Journal of economic perspectives*, 29(3), 3–30
- Dauth, W., Findeisen, S., Suedekum, J., & Woessner, N. (2021). The adjustment of labor markets to robots. *Journal of the European Economic Association*, 19(6), 3104–3153

Lecture 6. Immigration/Migration

- Dustmann, C., Schönberg, U., & Stuhler, J. (2016). The impact of immigration: Why do studies reach such different results? *Journal of Economic Perspectives*, 30(4), 31–56
- Borjas, G. (1987). Self-selection and the earnings of immigrants. *American Economic Review*, 77, 531–553
- Pinotti, P. (2017). Clicking on heaven’s door: The effect of immigrant legalization on crime. *American Economic Review*, 107(1), 138–168

Lecture 7. Development

- Qureshi, J. (2018). Additional returns to investing in girls’ education: Impact on younger sibling human capital. *The Economic Journal*, 128(616), 3285–3319
- Maccini, S., & Yang, D. (2009). Under the weather: Health, schooling, and economic consequences of early-life rainfall. *American Economic Review*, 99(3), 1006–1026

Lecture 8. Discrimination

- Charles, K. K., & Guryan, J. (2008). Prejudice and wages: An empirical assessment of becker’s the economics of discrimination. *Journal of Political Economy*, 116(5), 773–809
- Agan, A., & Starr, S. (2018). Ban the box, criminal records, and racial discrimination: A field experiment. *The Quarterly Journal of Economics*, 133(1), 191–235

- Behaghel, L., Crépon, B., & Le Barbanchon, T. (2015). Unintended effects of anonymous resumes. *American Economic Journal: Applied Economics*, 7(3), 1–27

Lecture 9. Gender

- Blau, F. D., & Kahn, L. M. (2017). The gender wage gap: Extent, trends, and explanations. *Journal of Economic Literature*, 55(3), 789–865
- Sarsons, H. (2017). Interpreting signals in the labor market: Evidence from medical referrals. *working paper*
- Niederle, M., & Vesterlund, L. (2007). Do women shy away from competition? do men compete too much? *The Quarterly Journal of Economics*, 122(3), 1067–1101