PhD Course

Behavioral & Experimental Economics

Dates: Fridays: 15 October, 5 November, 10 December 2021, 29 April 2022. The session timeline allows participants to develop and run their experiments.

Time: 08:30–10:00, 10:15–12:30, 13:30–15:00

Place: Universität Hamburg (room tba/or via Zoom if required)

Course Instructor: Prof. Dr. Markus Nöth and Prof. Dr. Guido Voigt (both Universität Hamburg)

Course Value: 2 SWS/5 LP

Teaching language: English

Registration: via e-mail to bettina.kourieh@uni-hamburg.de (first come, first-served)

Objectives: The main goal of this course is to introduce the design and implementation of both laboratory and field experiments in various fields of Economics and Business Administration. PhD students who have some experience with or who consider to set up an experiment are welcome to participate in this course.

First, we will identify different research questions for a laboratory or a field experiment. We start with discussing critical theory assumptions. We then show how research hypotheses can be inferred from behavioral models and how these hypotheses may be tested in lab or field studies.

Second, participants will critically discuss an experimental paper (either provided by us or self-selected) that is instructive for their own research field.

Third, participants have the opportunity to develop and discuss an experimental design and may conduct a pilot experiment that is run in class. We introduce basic statistics along with a discussion how they relate to the experimental design. Alternatively, for participants who do not plan to conduct own experiments, a second paper will be reviewed.

Participants have the option to take a research ethics training (https://about.citiprogram.org/en/homepage) that becomes increasingly important to conduct research projects with colleagues from the United States. All students will learn the basic requirements of a human subjects committee.
Some Topics:

- Identify a suitable research question for an experiment
- Ethical and scientific standards: historical and scientific reasons, consent requirements, human subjects committee, special requirements (children, elderly people, inmates, ...), data collection and evaluation
- Individual and group experiments in the laboratory
- Surveys and internet experiments
- Field experiments in cooperation with a company

Prerequisites:

Basic background in microeconomics, game theory and statistics.

Student evaluation:

- Critical discussion of experimental papers,
- Optional but encouraged: experiment design presentation (extended summary on economic question, relevant literature, hypotheses, design: presentation with max. 10 slides or max. five pages extended abstract); running a pilot experiment

Schedule (tentative)

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<th>Session</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Reference</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1st</td>
<td>Introduction to the field, Game theoretic models, critical assumptions, behavioral models and research hypothesis Laboratory Experiments</td>
<td>Katok 18</td>
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<tr>
<td>3rd</td>
<td>Presentation of research (problem description, research hypothesis, experimental design), Visit of experimental laboratory (z-Tree, eye tracking, etc.)</td>
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<tr>
<td>4th</td>
<td>Presentation of pilot studies (pls. note: pilot studies need to be scheduled independently by participants)</td>
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Recommended Texts:

Suggested literature in preparation for the course:


Others:
Sheskin, D. J. (2011) Handbook of parametric and nonparametric statistical procedures. 5. ed. CRC Press

Further material (e.g., papers to be presented etc.) will be distributed once we know who will be participating.