
Social Policy Evaluation, Analysis, and Research Centre
Economics Program, RSSS
Australian National University

Course on Econometric Methods of Program Evaluation

Professor Jeffrey Smith, University of Maryland

Monday 12th, Tuesday 13th and Wednesday 14th August, 2002
9.00 am - 1.00 pm, Innovations Building, Eggleston Road, ANU

This course will be of particular interest to individuals with responsibility for or an interest in rigorous evaluation of public programs and policies. This includes evaluation researchers, policymakers, and agency staff who commission, monitor, or consume evaluation research. This course is particularly timely in light of the increased focus on evidence-based policy and recent international developments in the methodology of program evaluation. The objective of the course is to provide participants with an opportunity to develop a deeper understanding of econometric methods of program evaluation.

The course is designed to complement and build upon the evaluation course taught by Professor Christoph Schmidt (University of Heidelberg) in August 2001, but will be accessible to those who did not attend the previous course. The first day of the course will present a general overview of the economic literature on program evaluation. This will include a discussion of the questions of interest in program evaluations, experimental and non-experimental methods, and evidence from the literature on which methods work best in particular evaluation contexts. The discussion will be general, with examples drawn from the North American and European literatures on evaluating employment and training programs.

The second and third days of the course will delve into more detail on all of these issues. Highlights will include discussions of the importance of defining the policy parameters of interest when program impacts vary across individuals, alternative experimental designs, the use (and misuse) of matching methods and how these methods differ from standard regression analyses, along with the administrative relationship between performance standards and program impacts. It will also feature an extended discussion of the rapidly accumulating evidence in the literature on the factors that affect the performance of alternative non-experimental evaluation methods.

The program format is designed to maximize the opportunities for discussion and questions. Lecture notes will be distributed and a list of background readings provided. Participants may register for part 1 only (Day 1) or for the entire course.

About Professor Smith:

Jeffrey Smith is an international expert in program evaluation. He received his Ph.D. in Economics from the University of Chicago in 1996 and he joined the University of Maryland faculty in 2001. His research centres on methods for the evaluation of social programs such as job training for the disadvantaged. He has also written papers examining the labour market effects of university quality and the use of statistical treatment rules to assign persons to government programs. Recent publications include “Substitution and Dropout Bias in Social Experiments: A Study of An Influential Social Experiment” (with James Heckman, Neil Hohmann and Michael Khoo), *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, 2000, “The Economics and Econometrics of Active Labor Market Programmes” (with James Heckman and Robert LaLonde) in the *Handbook of Labor Economics, Volume 3A* 1999.

Early registration is advised as course places are limited. Places will be allocated according to date of receipt of application. The Course Program and Registration Form are attached.

Enquiries: Susan Lindsay, SPEAR, Economics Program, ANU

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Details are also published on our web site at http://cepr.anu.edu.au/spear.htm (and follow events links)
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Course on the Evaluation of Labor Market Programs

Professor Jeffrey Smith

9.00 am - 1.00 pm on each day

12th August -- Overview
The Evaluation Problem Parameters of Interest In Evaluating Social Programmes Social Experiments Non-Experimental Evaluation Methods Choosing Among Alternative Non-Experimental Evaluation Methods
13th August – Experiments and Matching Methods
Interpreting the Evidence from Social Experiments Alternative Experimental Designs Matching and the Conditional Independence Assumption Alternative Matching Methods The Support Problem in Matching
14th August – Other Non-Experimental Methods and Selecting a Non-Experimental Method
Longitudinal Evaluation Methods Instrumental Variable and Exclusion Restriction Methods Regression Discontinuity Designs Performance Standards: Quick and Dirty Evaluation Choosing Among Alternative Non-Experimental Evaluation Methods: Simulations Choosing Among Alternative Non-Experimental Evaluation Methods: Empirical Evidence

Enquiries:

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E-mail: spear@coombs.anu.edu.au**

Registration Form – Econometric Evaluation of Labour Market Programs

Social Policy Evaluation, Analysis, and Research Centre (SPEAR) Economics Program, RSSS, The Australian National University Evaluation Course Monday 12th Tuesday 13th and Wednesday 14th August, 2002, 9.00 am - 1.00 pm Venue: Innovations Building, Eggleston Road, ANU Receipt of Registration will be confirmed	
Name: (please print clearly. This will be used on your lapel badge)	
Organisation:	
Address:	
Tel:	Fax:
E-mail:	
Registering for	Part 1, (Day 1) <input type="checkbox"/> 3-day course <input type="checkbox"/>
REGISTRATION FEE: Includes coffee/tea on arrival and morning coffee/tea snack break.	\$300 for part 1, or \$750 for the 3-day course fee (GST inclusive) The ANU ABN Number is 52234 063 906. (Discount available for three or more participants from the same funding area - \$250 each for part 1, \$675 for whole course)
PAYMENT DETAILS:	Total \$
By CHEQUE payable to ANU	Cheque Enclosed / To Follow
By CREDIT CARD:	<input type="checkbox"/> Mastercard <input type="checkbox"/> Visacard <input type="checkbox"/> Bankcard <input type="checkbox"/> Amex (please tick)
Name on Card:	Card No: <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>
Expiry Date:	Signature: _____ Date: _____
THIS DOCUMENT WILL BECOME A TAX INVOICE FOR GST WHEN YOU MAKE A PAYMENT.	
FORWARD TO: Susan Lindsay SPEAR, Economics Program, RSSS, Bldg.09 Australian National University CANBERRA 0200	Fax: (02) 6125 0182 E-mail: spear@coombs.anu.edu.au ENQUIRIES: Tel: (02) 6125 0195