

Syllabus for the Master Seminar

“Do-it-yourself (DIY): Research Idea Development”

MA-E-210 / MA-E-230 / MA-M-410 / MA-W-210 / MA-W-220

Prof. Dr. Marco Caliendo, Dr. Katrin Huber, Aiko F. Schmeißer

www.uni-potsdam.de/empwifo

University of Potsdam, Winter term 2024/25

This version: September 23, 2024

Course content and structure

This do-it-yourself (DIY) research seminar has two learning goals: In the first part, you will learn some essential skills for research in Economics, such as refereeing and discussing a paper, how to come up with own research ideas and how to write a research outline. We will provide you with an introduction into these skills. For two sessions a list of required readings is provided, you have to write a referee report on one of the papers and for each paper there will be one presentation and one discussion given by the students.

The second part of the course is for you to develop and work on your own research idea. At the end of the semester, you have to submit a research proposal. All ideas in the field of Labor Economics, Policy Evaluation, Population Economics, Political Economy, or related areas are welcome. We will support you with the development of ideas and also in case you want to request access to survey data (e.g. SOEP, BIBB BAuA) or admin data (e.g. IAB FDZ data). You are not expected to implement the idea in this course (no data work is required).

Registration

If interested in participating, please register by sending an email to schmeisser@uni-potsdam.de by **October 18, 2024** stating your name, matriculation number and a list of courses you have taken at the Chair of Empirical Economics including the grade you achieved. We recommend successful completion of the courses “MA: Microeconometrics” as well as “MA: Policy Evaluation”.

Examination

The final grade will be awarded based on the performance in the following components:

- 2 referee reports (25%)
- 1-2 presentations/discussions (25%)
- Research proposal (50%)

Schedule

Note: Tentative schedule. Final schedule depends on enrollment.

15.10.24, 4 - 5 pm	Room S26	Kick-off meeting
18.10.24, midnight		Deadline for registration via email
22.10.24, 4 - 7 pm	Room S26	Lecture and Q&A: How to write a referee report? How to give a research presentation?
29.10.24, midnight		Referee report 1 due
05.11.24, 4 - 7 pm	Room S26	Presentation and discussion 1
12.11.24, midnight		Referee report 2 due
19.11.24, 4 - 7 pm	Room S26	Presentation and discussion 2
26.11.24, 4 - 7 pm	Room S26	Lecture and Q&A: How to come up with a research idea? How to write a research proposal/paper?
17.12.24, 4 - 7pm	Room S26	First presentation of research idea
Optionally: January		Discussion of research ideas in additional session or individual office hours
21.01.25, 4 - 7 pm	Room S26	Final presentation of research idea
Deadline tba		Research proposal due