



## **Evaluation of Public Policies**

**Location :** CIQSS, 3535 chemin Queen-Mary, office 420, Montréal  
**Dates :** July 2-4, 2014

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### **GOALS**

The aim of the course is to introduce participants to recent methodological developments in the evaluation of public policies. These developments have shown that it is possible to circumvent most conceptual problems related to the evaluation of public policies under relatively innocuous assumptions. The importance of these developments has been underlined by the award of the Nobel Prize in Economics in 2000 to James Heckman and Daniel McFadden, the two main contributors to the field.

### **OUTLINE OF THE TRAINING SESSION**

The course will take place over three days. Each daily session is divided into two parts. The first part takes place in the morning and focuses on theoretical notions. Conceptual and methodological problems are presented and solutions that have been proposed to overcome them are discussed in details. The second part takes place in the afternoon and provides hands-on experience with computer software (Stata or R) and survey data. Afternoon sessions focus on the theoretical notions presented in the morning sessions.

### **ELIGIBILITY**

The course is open to graduate students and postdoctoral fellows as well as to professors and practising researchers. Some familiarity with basic statistical techniques, such as multiple regressions, is assumed, but higher levels of quantitative knowledge are not required.

## PROGRAMME

### Day I

1. The Fundamental Problem:
  - Determination of the control group
  - Selection bias
  - Attrition bias
  - Social experimentation as a solution
  - Empirical examples
2. Proposed solutions
  - Before-After estimators
  - Difference-in-differences estimator
  - Cross-sectional estimators
  - Two-step Heckman estimator
  - Instrumental variables estimators
3. Lab work

### Day II

1. Propensity score matching estimators
  - Propensity score
  - Radius matching
  - Kernel matching
  - Difference-in-differences kernel matching
  - Heterogeneous treatment effects
  - Inverse probability weighting
2. Lab work

### Day III

1. Regression Discontinuity
  - What its all about....
  - Fuzzy Design versus Sharp Design
  - Examples from labour and health economics
2. *Ex Ante Evaluation* (time allowing)
  - Detailed presentation
  - Examples: Guaranteed income support, health economics
3. Lab work