Faculty Information

Massimiliano PORTO

Division:

Development Economics (DE)

Research Area:

International trade, foreign direct investment, economic integration.

Research Methods:

Quantitative methodology.

Seminar Topic and Keywords:

International trade, econometrics, R programming language.

Seminar Teaching Method:

The seminar is structured around the analysis and replication of academic research papers. Students will:

- Read and dissect peer-reviewed articles in economics.
- Replicate selected papers in class under the guidance of the supervisor, using available datasets.

By the end of the seminar, each student is required to independently replicate an academic research paper of their choosing (subject to instructor approval). Students must share their complete replication project – including the written report and all code – with the rest of the class. This will be done through an in-class presentation and distribution of materials to peers. This final project is designed to demonstrate proficiency in quantitative research techniques and promote peer learning through open discussion, transparency, and collaborative critique.

Possible Research Topics for Students:

Comments:

Students are expected to have a basic understanding of econometrics prior to enrolling in this seminar. A brief review of key econometric concepts will be conducted during the initial sessions to ensure foundational alignment.

To succeed in this seminar, self-study of econometrics and programming languages is essential. Students are responsible for independently strengthening their skills in statistical analysis and coding throughout the semester.

All in-class replications will be conducted using the R programming language, and students are expected to be familiar with its basic functionality. For the final project, students may choose to submit their work using one of the following programming languages or statistical software:

- R
- Python
- Stata
- MATLAB