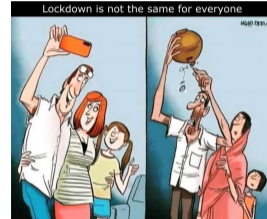
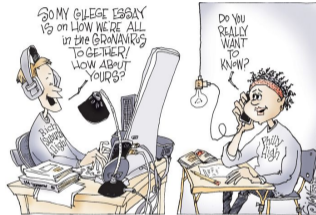


Empirical Policy Evaluation



TECHNISCHE
UNIVERSITÄT
DARMSTADT

Motivation



Sources: ocregister.com, Philadelphia Inquirer, devpolicy.org

- The COVID-19 Pandemic has put public policy in the spotlight like never before
 - ▣ Unprecedented policy measures like lock-downs and stay-at-home-orders
 - ▣ It is of utmost importance to understand the “true” costs and benefits of these measures
 - ▣ But how can we identify these *causal* effects?
- Only one of many, many issues (climate policy, social policy, economics development etc.)

Seminar Content

- Our main **goal** is to learn about *causal effects* of policies
- Our main **challenge** is that we lack a *counterfactual*
 - Impossible to know what would have happened in the absence of a policy or treatment
 - But need to know for causal effect!
- Main **idea**: compare a *treatment* to an untreated, but very similar *control* group
- There are 5 widely-used techniques to do so
 - Gold Standard: Experiments
 - Statistical accounting for differences between groups
 - Instrumental Variables Estimation
 - Regression Discontinuity Design
 - Difference-in-Differences Estimation
- We will cover all these techniques in our seminar

Pre-requisites and how we work

- Pre-requisites
 - Must be comfortable with multivariate linear regression (OLS) and hypothesis testing
 - Basic microeconomics is useful, but not necessary
- Structure: 5 sessions
 - 3 input sessions in lecture style to introduce techniques (2.5h each, before Christmas)
 - 2 colloquia where students discuss research papers (after Christmas)
- Evaluation
 - Group presentations (in pairs, 50% of grade)
 - Short group report on a paper (same pairs, 50%)
 - Grading will be individual; every piece of work requires a clear indication of who's responsible for what

Timeline and Next Steps

- Timeline

20 Oct	14:25 - 15:10	Kick-off/Information Session
1 Nov	23:59	Confirmation of attendance + topic selection
10 Nov, 1 Dec, 8 Dec	13:30 - 16:05	3 Input Sessions
26 Jan, 2 Feb	13:30 - 16:05	Presentations
10 Feb	23:59	Submit report

- When you confirm your attendance (email sevgi.guel1@tu-darmstadt.de), please include the following information
 - Name, first name, matriculation number, main study programme, main email address