Reading list for SOS9019 - Research Designs for Causal Inference 2016

** We will assume you have read these.
* Will be covered extensively during the lectures. It is good if you have a look at these. Non marked are good references, especially if you will be using these methods on your own.

AK: Andreas Kotsadam

NJ: Niklas Jakobsson

Lecture 1: Introduction, potential outcomes, and randomization. (AK)
This lecture will give an introduction to the course. We will cover the nuts and bolts of doing a randomized experiment: Pitfalls, power calculations, clustered designs, ethical discussion, and practical tips. But we will also take the opportunity to discuss some recent advances in regression analysis (yes, there are actually quite interesting things happening here) and we will also cover some discussions on external and internal validity.

Books:
The following two books are highly recommended and can be seen as the Bibles for causal inference. The first one is a really good description of the topics during this course and the second is extremely valuable once you want to implement any of the methods using Stata.


There is also an introductory book by Angrist and Pischke that is good:

The following books are also good references:


Overview articles:
The following cover most of the material in the course:


Articles
Required reading before class:


Good if you have a look at before class:

* Advances in regression analysis:


* Altonji, Joseph, Timothy Conley, Todd Elder, and Christopher Taber, 2013. “Methods for Using Selection on Observed Variables to Address Selection on Unobserved Variables.” On Elders homepage: [https://www.msu.edu/~telder/](https://www.msu.edu/~telder/)

* Conley, T. G., Hansen, C. B., & Rossi, P. E. (2012). Plausibly exogenous. *Review of Economics and Statistics, 94*(1), 260-272. (Will also be covered on the IV lecture). We will also discuss the application of AET stats in:


For those with an extra interest in the topic:

Interesting discussions in *The Journal of Economic Perspectives, Volume 24, Number 2, Spring 2010.* Starting with:


Overview in Norwegian:

*Other good references*


**Video**

Podcast
EconTalk Episode with Austin Frakt. An interesting discussion about power analysis.
http://www.econtalk.org/archives/2013/05/frakt_on_medica.html

Blog
A good blog discussing RCT’s but also many other topics that we cover. Mostly development economics but many issues of general interest as well.
Excellent collection of their technical posts here:

Lecture 2: Diff-in-diff and panel strategies. (NJ)
The relevant chapters in Angrist and Pische (2015**, 2009)

Andreas’ suggestions for interested reader: Morgan and Winship (1999), and Cameron and Trivedi (2010) are key texts. Finseraas and Kotsadam (2015) is a non-technical introduction, see also Schlotter et al. (2009) Econometric Methods for Causal Evaluation of Education Policies and Practices: A Non-Technical Guide IZA DP No. 4725. In addition, the following articles will be discussed:


**Lecture 3: The Synthetic Control Method. (NJ)**


**Lecture 4: Instrumental variables. (AK)**

Required reading before class:


Good if you have a look at before class:


The IV chapters in Mostly harmless and Mastering metrics are also very good. I will also take some examples from Winship and Morgan (2015).

For those with an extra interest in the topic:


Murray, Michael (2006a). "The bad, the weak, and the ugly: Avoiding the pitfalls of instrumental variables estimation."
Lecture 5: Regression discontinuity. (NJ)


Home assignment: Write referee reports of the following two papers:

Paper number 1:

Paper number 2:

Lates version on Maya Sen's homepage:
http://scholar.harvard.edu/files/msen/files/slavery.pdf?m=1457214683

The instructions are written in the last slides of IV lecture sent out earlier.
**Lectures final day:**
The lectures during the final days will cover GIS, Peer and neighborhood effects, as well as mechanisms in causal analysis. If we have time we will also discuss the Epidemiological approach.

**Peer effects. (AK)**

Required reading before class:

** Henning Finseraas, Åshild A. Johnsen, Andreas Kotsadam and Gaute Torsvik (2016) Exposure to female colleagues breaks the glass ceiling-Evidence from a combined vignette and field experiment. European Economic Review.**

** Sacerdote, Bruce. "Peer effects in education: How might they work, how big are they and how much do we know thus far?." Handbook of the Economics of Education 3 (2011): 249-277.**

Good if you have a look at before class:


For those with an extra interest in the topic:


**Using ArcGIS for causal inference. (AK)**

Good if you have a look at some of these before class:

* Knutsen et al. (2016). "Mining and local corruption in Africa" Most recent version on my homepage (see revised version):
  
  https://andreaskotsadam.wordpress.com/publications/


Night time light papers:


For those with an extra interest in the topic:

Melissa Dell’s Lecture notes. GIS For Applied Economists (Lecture Notes Only)

Masayuki Kudamatsu’s fantastic course. All material is available online, I highly recommend this course: https://sites.google.com/site/mkudamatsu/gis

Mechanisms in casual analysis (AK)

Good if you have a look at before class:

  http://scholar.harvard.edu/files/msen/files/direct-effects.pdf?m=1445302372


The Epidemiological approach (AK: Extra topic, will perhaps be squeezed in)

Good if you have a look at before class:

For those with an extra interest in the topic:


