

MAER-Net Colloquium 2017
Zeppelin University Friedrichshafen, Germany
October 12-14, 2017

Meta-Analysis in Economics, Sociology and Political Science

Meta-analysis is the statistical analysis of previously reported empirical research. It seeks to summarize and explain the disparate empirical findings routinely reported in nearly any area of economics (Stanley and Jarrell, 1989; Stanley 2001). Meta-analysis provides the statistical methods that can sort through the mountains of empirical research in a systematic and rigorous manner, uncovering the central empirical realities and policy implications. Meta-analytic techniques have been applied for decades in health and medical research. It is the most rigorous component of the high-profile research for 'systematic reviews' and 'evidence-based' medicine, education, and social policy. Through its broad range of applications, meta-analysis provides an appropriate forum for interdisciplinary discussions.

Over the past 25 years, the growth in the meta-analyses of economic and social policy has been exponential. We expect this trend to continue in the forthcoming years as mountains of empirical research grow at unprecedented rates. Although environmental and labor economics has led the applications of meta-analysis in economics, there have also been notable examples in international economics, development economics, sociology and political science.

Future Impact of the Conference for the Corresponding Fields of Research

As meta-analysis is gaining wider acceptance in all fields of economic and social research and public policy evaluation, in general, important issues of its application, meaning and methodology will naturally arise. The MAER-Net Colloquium will introduce the necessary meta-analytic methods to those researchers new to meta-analysis, outline what has been learned about economics and international development through meta-regression, apply meta-analysis to international development, and discuss many of the relevant policy implications.

Interdisciplinary scholars from around the world participate regularly in the annual colloquia of the Meta-Analysis of Economics Research Network (MAER-Net), which is an international network of scholars committed to improving economic and social sciences through meta-analysis.

Although the colloquium is open to applications of meta-analysis in all fields, it can stress selected areas through the invitation of keynote speakers. From the perspective of the Zeppelin University, the organization of the next year MAER-Net colloquium could put a partial interest on the use of big data in empirical research. This would include the Method Center for economic, social and cultural sciences.

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Prof Dr Insa Sjurts (chairwoman) | Matthias Schmolz
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Participants

We expect about 40 presentations from various fields of economics, sociology, political science and other related fields. The colloquium will be opened to students, moreover, they will be motivated to submit a paper for the colloquium.

Scientific Organizers

The scientific matters related to the workshop will be organized by Prof. Jarko Fidrmuc (ZU Friedrichshafen and CESifo Munich) and Prof. Tom Stanley (Hendrix College).

Prof. Jarko Fidrmuc is professor of international economics at the ZU Friedrichshafen and a member of CESifo research network. His research focus lies on international economics and international finance. He published several papers on meta-analysis, for example a meta-analysis of European or Chinese business cycle synchronization in the Journal of Comparative Economics and Pacific Economic Journal.

Prof. Tom Stanley is a leading expert in the field of meta-analysis, who paved the way for the applications of meta-techniques in economics. He participated in projects introducing meta-analysis to new fields of economics, e.g. with Prof. Andrew K. Rose on trade effects in monetary unions. His publications on the topic include several path-breaking publications, for example, in: Journal of Economic Perspectives, The American Statistician, and Oxford Bulletin of Economics and Statistics.

Further leading experts from various areas of economics, sociology and political science will be invited to join the scientific board of the conference later. It will also include representatives from different part of the Zeppelin University and the Center for economic, social and cultural sciences.

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