Winter School in
10 December – 15 December 2012
PADOVA, ITALY
www.statistica.unipd.it/winterschool2012/index.asp
Application due by 30 September, 2012

Directors of the School: Gianpiero Dalla Zuanna, University of Padova
Maria Castiglioni, University of Padova
Maria Letizia Tanturri, University of Padova

Guest speakers: Jean-Louis Arcand, Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies (Geneve)
Enrico Rettore, University of Padova
Henriette Engelhardt-Woelfler, University of Bamberg
Ann-Zofie Duvander, University of Stockholm
Maria Rita Testa, Vienna Institute of Demography

Submission deadline: 30 September 2012
Application form: www.statistica.unipd.it/winterschool2012/index.asp
Secretariat: IEPS Secretariat
e-mail: ieps.winterschool@stat.unipd.it

The Impact Evaluation Methodologies have only recently been extensively used in Population Studies. It is a ground-breaking topic that can be extremely promising for those interested in assessing the impact of both policies and external changes on demographic behavior.

This Winter School covers the principles, methods and issues related to causal inference in population studies. Through a combination of methodological lectures, case studies and hands-on computing sessions, the school covers a range of topics, including randomized experiments, propensity score matching, difference-in-differences estimation, instrumental variables and regression discontinuity designs.

The Winter School in Fundamentals and Methods for Impact Evaluation in Population Studies (IEPS) is meant to create an international and highly qualified learning environment, which should allow participants to be actively involved in workshops and seminars and to experiment innovative ways of collaborative learning under the supervision of re-known academics and experts from different Universities and Research Centers.

The course consists of lectures of one hour and half each, presentations of case studies both on developed and developing countries, computing sessions and a final general discussion. Classes will be taught in English.

The IEPS Winter School is funded by the University of Padova and promoted by the Department of Statistical Sciences in collaboration with the International Relations Office. Partners of the initiative are the Italian Association for Population Studies (AISP), the Vienna Institute of Demography (VID), the Stockholm University Demography Unit (SUDA), the Italian Ph.D. School in Demography.
Applicants
The School is open to a maximum of 30 participants, 10 of which may be awarded a scholarship on a competitive basis. The selection criteria are indicated in the IEPS Winter School web site – www.statistica.unipd.it/winterschool2012/index.asp. The school welcomes participants from both European and Extra European countries. A good command of English is also required. The program is intended to everybody interested (both academics or not), but at least with a basic knowledge of Descriptive and Inferential Statistics and of Population Studies.

The scholarship is primarily intended for Ph.D. students, post graduate students, holders of a Master degree and young researchers having an academic or professional interest in population studies and a documented knowledge of Descriptive and Inferential Statistics, as well as on Population Studies. Candidates must be citizens of Developing and Transition Economies Countries. Young researchers should possibly have completed their training less than three years prior to their present application. In case of young researchers who have taken documented maternity leave, the interval may be prolonged (18 months for each child, born either before or after the Ph.D).

Application process
People interested in participating in the Winter School must apply by submitting the IEPS Winter School application form; a curriculum vitae including statements about their current or projected research, along with relevant research papers, if any; a one-page motivation letter describing their interest in Impact Evaluation in Population Studies; one letter of recommendation. The application form is available on the web site http://www.statistica.unipd.it/winterschool2012/faculty/ApplicationForm.rtf

 Submission deadline
Applications are due (i.e. they must be received by the Winter School Secretariat) by 30 September, 2012. Admission decisions will be made and announced by 15 October 2012. All applicants will be informed by e-mail about the results. We encourage electronic submissions: ieps.winterschool@stat.unipd.it

Participants may also send their application by post to the following postal address:
Università degli Studi di Padova – Dipartimento di Scienze Statistiche
IEPS Winter School Secretariat
Via Cesare Battisti 241 - 35121 Padova, ITALY

Registration fees
Admitted participants must pay a fee of 300 EUR, which is meant to cover tuition costs and the learning materials handed out during the training. Participants are requested to register to the Winter School by paying the tuition fee either by credit card or via bank transfer, by the 1 November 2012. Participants who will not have their payment settled will not be admitted to class.

In case of withdrawal from the course, an official withdrawal letter written by the enrolled student must be sent to Winter School Secretariat (ieps.winterschool@stat.unipd.it). The participation fee of 300 EUR, when already paid, will not be returned.

Scholarships
 Grants will be awarded up to 10 (ten) citizens of Developing and Transition Economies Countries. Participants will be selected on their academic potential, past relevant experiences, personal motivation and recommendation (please see the detailed selection criteria on the IEPS Winter School web site – www.statistica.unipd.it/winterschool2012/index.asp). Participants wishing to apply for a scholarship must state their interest in the application form. The scholarship will be managed by the Winter School Secretariat and cover the following items: tuition fee (300 EUR); learning materials; accommodation at University colleges; meals at University canteens; a lump sum of the travel costs from and to the University of Padova (the forfeit quota of travel costs awarded to the scholarship holders will be established based on their country of origin; participants may receive up to maximum 500 EUR). Students that have qualified for a scholarship will be given instructions in order to accept it officially.

Accommodation
The IEPS Winter School sessions will be held in a beautiful venue in downtown Padova, Italy. All participants are required to stay for the entire duration of the event. Accommodation, lunches and travel expenses are not included in the participation fee. Please direct logistical questions to the Winter School Secretariat (ieps.winterschool@stat.unipd.it), various lodging arrangements will be provided upon request and through the IEPS Winter School web site – www.statistica.unipd.it/winterschool2012/index.asp.
Programme details

The **Impact Evaluation Methodologies** have only recently been extensively used in Population Studies. It is a ground-breaking topic that can be extremely promising for those interested in assessing the impact of both policies and external changes on demographic behavior. This Winter School covers the principles, methods and issues of causal inference in population studies.

The aim of the course is to merge theoretical issues and practical tools, at an intermediate level. The time spent in PC Rooms (using software STATA) will give to participants the practical abilities to apply the main statistical techniques of impact evaluation to population data and problems, within the framework of counterfactual approach.

The program is intended to everybody interested (both academics or not), but at least with a basic background in Descriptive and Inferential Statistics (students should understand basic concepts such as statistical inference - estimation, hypothesis test and confidence intervals; correlation and regression analysis) and of Population Studies (familiarity with data collection and basic knowledge of demographic indicators).

Examples of reference books for basic knowledge:

Learning material and references will be made available to participants during the course.

Guest speakers:
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