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# **Fundamentals and methods for impact evaluation of public policies**

**Course programme (provisional)**

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**13-18 February 2012**

**Centro Congressi Panorama, Sardinia  
TRENTO**

## MONDAY, 13 FEBRUARY

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08.45-09.00      **Introduction**  
**Antonio Schizzerotto, Director of IRVAPP**

09.00-12.30      **Ugo Trivellato**

10.30-11.00 coffee break

- Introduction to impact evaluation: concepts and notation. Potential, factual and counterfactual outcomes. The fundamental problem of causal inference.
- Conditions to learn about the causal effects of a programme: stable unit-treatment value assumption; common support condition; *ceteris paribus* condition and relevant identifying restrictions (conditional independence assumption as an example).

12.30-14.30 lunch and break

14.30-18.00      **Ugo Trivellato and Antonio Schizzerotto**

16.00-16.30 coffee break

- Causal parameters of interest, selection bias and maturation bias. Internal and external validity of an evaluation design. Identification of causal effects in experimental and observational settings: a taxonomy of identification strategies.
- Evaluation strategies and data requirements: prospective vs. retrospective evaluation; registers and surveys; general purpose and *ad hoc* data sources.

## TUESDAY, 14 FEBRUARY

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09.00-12.30      **Erich Battistin**

10.30-11.00 coffee break

- Impact evaluation in an experimental setting: design and implementation of randomized experiments; minimum detectable effects.
- Impact evaluation in an observational setting, selection on observables (I): stratification and matching; curse of dimensionality.

12.30-14.30 lunch and break

14.30-18.00      **Erich Battistin and Nadir Zanini**

16.00-16.30 coffee break

- *Training session* – Introduction to regression; estimation of the Average Treatment effect on the Treated (ATT) via regression.

## WEDNESDAY, 15 MARCH

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09.00-12.30 **Erich Battistin**

10.30-11.00 coffee break

- Impact evaluation in an observational setting, selection on observables (II): propensity score and matching.
- Impact evaluation in an observational setting, selection on observables (III): operationalising matching.

12.30 lunch

p.m. **Free afternoon**

## THURSDAY, 16 FEBRUARY

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09.00-12.30 **Enrico Rettore**

10.30-11.00 coffee break

- Impact evaluation in an observational setting, the case of selection based on discontinuity rules: Sharp and Fuzzy Regression Discontinuity Design (RDD).
- Impact evaluation in an observational setting, the case of selection on unobservables (I): longitudinal estimators: difference-in-differences for panel data and repeated cross-sections; estimators and standard errors.

12.30-14.30 lunch and break

14.30-18.00 **Ugo Trivellato and Nadir Zanini**

16.00-16.30 coffee break

- *Training session* – Presentation of the first case-study: the Italian “Mobility Lists” programme.
- *Training session (continued)* – Sharp RDD.

## FRIDAY, 17 FEBRUARY

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09.00-12.30      **Enrico Rettore**

10.30-11.00 coffee break

- Impact evaluation in an observational setting, the case of selection on unobservables (II): the Instrumental Variables (IV) estimator; weak instruments; heterogeneity of the causal effect and characterization of the sub-population to which the IV estimator refers to.
- Evaluation designs, testable implications and over-identification tests.

12.30-14.30 lunch and break

14.30-18.00      **Joshua Angrist**

16.00-16.30 coffee break

- Identification and estimation of the distribution of treatment effects

## SATURDAY, 18 FEBRUARY

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09.00-12.30      **Erich Battistin and Silvia Girardi**

10.30-11.00 coffee break

- *Training session* - Presentation of the second case-study: the UK “Employer Training Pilots”
- *Training session* (continued) – Propensity score matching and difference-in-differences.

12.30-14.00 lunch and break

14.00-16.00      **Erich Battistin, Antonio Schizzerotto and Ugo Trivellato**

- Questions & Answers session.
- **Closing**