Seminar "Topics in Policy Evaluation"

(Summer Term 2026)

Focus on Technology and the Labor Market

Outline

In the summer term of 2026, the seminar will focus on the evaluation of policies related to technology and the labor market. The course provides an introduction to the economics of technological change with an emphasis on rigorous quantitative evaluation. The impact of technology on labor markets, innovation, and economic growth is a central topic on the political agenda. Therefore, assessing the causal effects of technology-related policies is crucial for evidence-based policymaking.

The goal of this course is to discuss the existing empirical evidence on the effects of selected policy interventions and technological developments. By focusing on a single paper, students will become familiar with common analytical tools for policy evaluation (e.g., randomized controlled trials, difference-in-differences, instrumental variables, regression discontinuity). Along the way, we will discuss the challenges of proper study design so that by the end of the course, students will be able to judge the quality of quantitative research. There are five general topics:

1. Internet and Broadband
2. Technology, Automation, and Labor Markets
3. Innovation, R&D and Patents
4. Technology, Work Organization, and Platforms
5. Artificial Intelligence

Instructor

Dr. Andreas Leibing. Office hours by appointment (andreas.leibing@tu-dresden.de)

Requirements

A basic understanding of statistics and microeconomics is necessary. Knowledge of causal inference methods (e.g., as taught in the modules Empirical Economics, Advanced Topics in Applied Economics, or Empirical Labor Economics) is highly recommended.

Important dates

1)	Application deadline:	May 1, 2026, 11:59 pm, via email
2)	Introductory session:	May 5, 2026, 11:10 am – 12:40 pm, SCH A-105
3)	Seminar presentations:	June 9, 2026, 9:20 am – 6:10 pm, SCH A-105
4)	Submission deadline:	July 7, 2026, 11:59 pm, via email

Application

Please apply by email to andreas.leibing@tu-dresden.de by May 1, 2026. The application should include your name, matriculation number, degree program, and up to three paper choices (in order of preference). Participation is limited to 16 students. Given that there are still slots available, we will invite you to the introductory session as soon as possible after your application. As the seminar is typically oversubscribed, we recommend submitting your application early.

The list of available topics and corresponding papers is provided in a separate document on OPAL. The final assignment of papers will take place during the introductory session, after which students can start working on their seminar paper.

Do not forget to register for the seminar in HISQIS/Selma within the applicable registration period.

Grading

To pass the module, students must pass **both** the presentation and the seminar paper. The language of both examinations is English. More evaluation criteria will be shared in the class.

(a) Presentation and Discussion (1/2 of final grade)

The presentation should provide a summary and a brief critical discussion of the seminar paper. It must not exceed 20 minutes, followed by a discussion of about 10 minutes. Students are expected to present freely and answer questions only based on their slides as visual aids. No notes are allowed. Participants are expected to contribute constructively to the discussion of each paper presented in their respective general topic group.

(b) Seminar paper (1/2 of final grade)

The seminar paper must provide an accurate summary and a critical discussion of the assigned paper. Students are also expected to discuss the paper and its contribution in the light of the broader literature on the topic. The maximum length of the seminar paper (excluding references, tables, figures, etc.) should be 12-15 pages in Times New Roman, 12pt font, and 1.5-line spacing.

The seminar paper must be submitted as a PDF by email to the instructor before the deadline.

Modules

MA-WW-ERG-3803, D-WW-ERG-3803, WW-MA-PIE-TPV: Topics in Policy Evaluation