

## Econometric teamwork

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The teamwork in econometrics is part of the requirement for the PPD master students. It accounts for 3 ECTS.

It is the opportunity for you to apply econometric methods on economic questions of your choice, using real datasets.

### Set up and requirements:

1. You choose your team mate and each team of two students chooses a topic within or outside of a list of suggested topics (see below).
2. **November:** At a first meeting (half an hour) with Pauline Charnoz, you validate your topic of research. For the end of November, you send a short description of the topic (question; draft of literature review; description of the data you plan to use).
3. Pauline Charnoz can assist you on technical questions and supervise your work. Don't hesitate to request help from the instructors.
4. **January:** Second meeting (half an hour) with Pauline Charnoz to present descriptive statistics. At least 3 days before this meeting, you send a short note to Pauline Charnoz, presenting this early pass on the data.
5. **February-March:** You send a first draft of your work to Pauline Charnoz and discuss it with her (an hour per team). Based on her feedback, you complete your work.
6. The evaluation of your work is based on a short report (10 to 20 pages, including result tables), common to the team, and an oral presentation, where each student must present part of the joint work. You must also include an appendix with the statistical codes you have used (from the original dataset to the results); this is not counted within the 10 to 20 pages.

In the presentation, you are encouraged to use slides. The presentation lasts 15 minutes, followed by question. The jury is made of Pauline Charnoz and one of the instructors.

### Timeline:

November	Choose team mate and topic.
November	1 <sup>st</sup> meeting to validate the topic and organize the work.
Mid January	Send a short note with first statistics to Pauline Charnoz
Late January	2 <sup>nd</sup> meeting with Pauline Charnoz
Late February	Send first draft to Pauline Charnoz.
March	3 <sup>rd</sup> meeting with Pauline Charnoz
End of March	Reports due by email to <a href="mailto:master-ppd@ens.fr">master-ppd@ens.fr</a>
1 <sup>st</sup> weeks of April	Oral presentation

The final grade is based on the written report and on the oral presentation. A minimum mark of 10/20 is required. There is no catch-up exam ("session de rattrapage").

## Topics:

The choice of the topic is open, you can choose it within or outside of the list that will be given, although your choice need to be validated to make sure that your project is sound. Be sensible: try to strike the right balance between your “dream research” and what you can do given the tools you have and the data you can access. Here are some indications to help you:

- **Don't neglect descriptive work.** Part of the requirement is to show that you understand the data and can use simple tools in a relevant way. Testing a theoretical model or estimating a causal effect is great; but on some topics, a good descriptive piece of work is already a good outcome.
- **Replicate existing work.** It is perfectly fine if the core of your work replicates a published paper, as long as, for instance, you try some new specifications, make some comparisons with other papers, or add some new ideas. You can also try the replication on a different data set (other country, new survey, etc.).
- **Look for ideas based on your own experience or on other classes you are taking.** If you had the opportunity to do some applied work, maybe it is time to go back to it and to improve on the analysis based on what you have learned. The other classes you are taking may also be a source of ideas: if one topic sounds interesting to you, discuss with the instructor in that class to see whether it might be a subject of empirical work for you.

To further help you, here are some indications on data sets available on the Internet (some may require authorizations: see with the instructor). In order to prepare your first discussion with your instructor, you do not need to use the statistical files, just have a look at the questionnaires to see if the information you would like to have is available.

- French data: <http://www.cmh.ens.fr/acsdm2/enquetes.php>. Access may take time or be sometimes restricted.
- Development data: Living Standard Measurement Surveys (LSMS) from the Worldbank: [www.worldbank.org/lsms](http://www.worldbank.org/lsms) and then follow the Dataset link on the left.
- Databases posted by economists:
  - a. Angrist data archive: <http://econ-www.mit.edu/faculty/angrist/data>
  - b. Journals tend to require that data sets are made available; e.g. *AEJ: applied economics* <http://www.aeaweb.org/aej-applied/accepted.html>, *Economic Journal* <http://www.res.org.uk/economic/datasets/datasetdefault.asp>, *Journal of Applied Econometrics* <http://qed.econ.queensu.ca/jae/>
  - c. NBER and partners: <http://www.nber.org/data/>

In short, many data sets are readily available (including by request to the authors): start by defining your topic, and then search for them based on your interests.