

Referee Reports, Research Proposal, and UPF Faculty

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Research Seminar

October, 2020

Writing a referee report

In this research seminar...

Methodology

- Each professor will provide specific readings beforehand (usually own research).
- Students are required to make a **brief but critical** referee report (should not simply summarize the paper)
- The reports should highlight:
 - ① the ideas (substantive and/or methodological) that you find interesting.
 - ② the problems/advantages you see in the adopted methodology.

Evaluation

- Reports are handed in before the first presentation of each professor.
- The reports can be done in groups of maximum 4 students.
- Reports will be graded by each professor.
- 30% of the course = average grade in reports

Writing a referee report (1)

Summary of key ideas: 1-2 paragraphs

- Do not just copy the abstract
- Explaining the paper in your own words is very useful for you and editor
- Include answers to these questions:
 - ▶ What is the question? Why is that question important?
 - ▶ What is the answer? How does the paper go about answering the question?
 - ▶ Why is this approach different or better than the literature?

Overall assessment:

- Is the contribution good enough? No = Reject, Yes = Revise and resubmit (R&R)
- Match between paper and journal is important
- Include clear route for eventual acceptance, be tough in early rounds

Writing a referee report (2)

If there is data, assess the following:

- Is the source of the data clear?
- Is it clear how the data was manipulated, cleaned, etc?
- Is the data a reasonable measure of what the author claims to be measuring?
- If there is a model, is there a clear description of the mapping from the data to the model?
- Is there likely to be measurement error? If so, is this addressed or considered?
- Is there likely to be a reverse causality or an endogeneity problem? If so, what approach is taken to achieve identification?
- Are the conclusions tightly linked to the data? Does the author overstate the results in any way?

Writing a referee report (3)

If there is theory/model:

- Briefly describe the mechanics of the model. Does this seem to be a sensible way to address the main question?
- What main results does the author prove?
- What are the key assumptions that you believe drive those results? Does the paper clearly identify these key assumptions?
- Do the results provide insight into the main question the paper asks?
- What new intuition is gained from these results? What did we learn?
- What other implications do these results have? Any implications that seem consistent or inconsistent with reality?
- Does the model have clear testable implications? Are these checked with data?

Writing a referee report (4)

Exposition:

- Is the paper well-positioned in the literature?
- Is the paper well-organized? Does it have a logical flow? Are there places where the writing is difficult to follow? Unnecessary sections?
- Typos? Math mistakes?
- Are figures/tables useful and clearly labeled?
 - ▶ A figure should be self-contained. A reader should not have to search the text to find definitions of symbols in order to interpret a figure.
 - ▶ Every figure should make an important point. The caption should state the point the figure makes.

Do you like this paper? Why or why not?

Writing a research proposal

In this research seminar...

Methodology

- Each student chooses a topic among those presented and think of a new idea.
- Discuss first with the professor teaching the chosen topic, and develop only if the professor agrees.
- Proposal is the **beginning** of a proper research project.
- Should contain an **initial but solid idea** developed as deeply as possible.

Evaluation

- Hand-in a paper before 12:00 of April the 30th.
- Proposals will be graded by the chosen professor (60% of course grade)
- Discuss with your professor the required aspects

Writing your research proposal (1)

Motivation

- What do you want to study
- Why do we care? Why is the question important?

State of the art

- Review of the literature
- Key expected contributions

Methodology

- Describe your theoretical framework, data that will be used, or both
- What analytical/empirical tools will you use

Expected Results (Wishful thinking)

- What do you expect to obtain?
- How is your mechanism going to work? What is the data going to say?

UPF faculty and their research interests*

*Any attempt to classify interests is wrong, this is only for orientation purposes.

**Please check professors webpages, publications and working papers.

UPF Organization

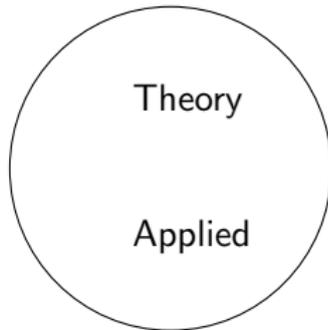
Macro



Micro



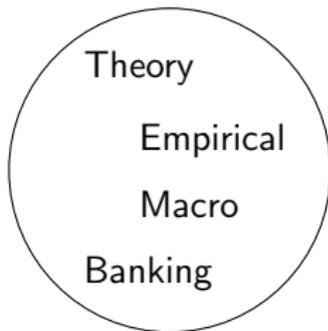
Metrics



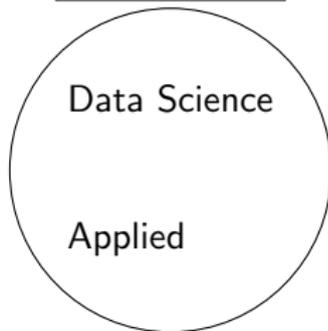
Applied



Finance



Management



Monetary Economics

- **Daive Debortoli:** fiscal and monetary policies with heterogeneous agents
<http://www.crei.cat/people/davide-debortoli-2/>
- **Luca Fornaro:** international macro and monetary economics
<http://www.crei.cat/people/fornaro/>
- **Jordi Galí:** new Keynesian theory
<http://www.crei.cat/people/gali/>
- **Priit Jeenas:** monetary policy and financial frictions
<https://sites.google.com/site/priitjeenas/>

Quantitative and Real Macroeconomics

- **Isaac Baley:** learning, adjustment costs
<http://www.isaacbaley.com>
- **Andrea Caggese:** firm dynamics, financial frictions
<https://andreacaggese.weebly.com>
- **Manuel Garcia-Santana:** misallocation, growth, development
<https://garciasantana.weebly.com>
- **Edouard Schaal:** labor markets, information frictions, business cycles
<http://www.crei.cat/people/schaal/>

International Macro, Trade, and Geography

- **Fernando Broner:** international, sovereign debt and finance
<http://www.crei.cat/people/broner/>
- **Dávid Nagy:** trade, economic geography
<https://sites.google.com/site/davidknagy>
- **Giacomo Ponzetto:** trade, political economy, and urban
<http://www.crei.cat/people/ponzetto/>
- **Jaume Ventura:** international, political economy
<http://www.crei.cat/people/jventura/>

Strategic Interactions

- **Jan Eeckhout:** matching in labor markets, markups, spatial sorting
<https://www.janeeckhout.com>
- **Alexander Frug:** information economics, game theory
<https://sites.google.com/site/alexanderfrug/>
- **Fabrizio Germano:** game theory, economics of mass media
<https://www.upf.edu/web/econ/entry/-/-/18931/403/fabrizio-germano>
- **Massimo Motta:** industrial organization and competition
<https://sites.google.com/site/massimomottawebpage/>
- **Antonio Penta:** game theory and mechanism design
<https://www.icrea.cat/Web/ScientificStaff/antonio-penta-296186>

Decision Theory and Bounded Rationality

- **Larbi Alaoui:** decision theory, bounded rationality in strategic settings
<http://www.econ.upf.edu/~alaoui/>
- **Jose Apestegua:** bounded rationality in decision settings
<http://www.econ.upf.edu/~apestegua/>
- **Francesco Cerigioni:** behavioral economics, decision theory
<https://francescocerigioni.weebly.com>
- **Rosemarie Nagel:** experimental economics
<https://www.upf.edu/web/rosemarie-nagel>

- **Christian Brownlees:** nonlinear time series, forecasting, financial
<http://www.econ.upf.edu/~cbrownlees/>
- **Kirill Evdokimov** nonlinear, semi-parametric, panel econometrics
<https://www.kirillevdokimov.com>
- **Geert Mesters:** macroeconometrics
<https://www.geertmesters.com>
- **Katerina Petrova:** macroeconometrics, DSGE and VAR models
<https://sites.google.com/site/katerinapetrovawebpage/home>
- **Barbara Rossi:** time series, macroeconometrics
<https://sites.google.com/site/barbararossiwebsite/>

Political and Development Economics

- **Ruben Durante:** political economics, media
<https://www.rubendurante.net>
- **Gianmarco León:** political, development, education economics
<https://sites.google.com/site/gianmarcoleon/>
- **Luigi Pascali:** growth, development, economic history
<https://www.upf.edu/web/luigi-pascali>
- **Alessandro Tarozzi:** development economics, microeconometrics
<https://sites.google.com/site/alessandrotarozzi/home>

Labor, Public, and Health Economics

- **Rosa Ferrer:** law and economics, industrial organization
<http://www.econ.upf.edu/~rferrer/>
- **Albrecht Glitz:** labor economics, migration
<http://84.89.132.1/~glitz/>
- **Libertad González:** labor economics, public and gender economics
<https://libertadgonzalez.com/>
- **Joan Monras:** labor, urban economics, international trade
<https://joanmonras.weebly.com>
- **Marta Reynal:** civil conflicts, institutions, ethnic polarization
<http://84.89.132.1/~reynal/>

Theory

- **Vladimir Asriyan:** macro-finance, information
<https://sites.google.com/site/vasriyan/>
- **Alberto Martin:** macro theory, international economics, financial markets
<http://www.crei.cat/people/martin/>
- **Victoria Vanasco:** corporate finance, security design, asymmetric info
<https://sites.google.com/site/vicovanasco/>

Empirics

- **Javier Gil-Bazo:** investor behavior, asset management, and asset pricing
<https://www.javiergilbazo.es/>
- **Filippo Ippolito:** corporate finance, asset pricing, banking
<https://sites.google.com/site/filippoippolito/>
- **José-Luis Peydró:** banking, international finance, macropru policies
<https://sites.google.com/site/joseluispeydroswebpage/>

Management

- **Benito Arruñada:** behavioral biases and law, business management
<http://www.arrunada.org/>
- **Albert Banal-Estanol:** competition, energy, innovation
<http://albertbanalestanol.com/>
- **Jessica De Armas:** combinatorial optimization, logistics, machine learning
<https://jesicadearmas.com/>
- **Gaël Le Mens:** learning by individuals and organizations, inaccurate beliefs
<https://sites.google.com/view/gael-le-mens>
- **Alberto Santini:** data science methods for business analytics
<https://santini.in/>
- **Helena Ramalinho:** production and operations management, logistics
<http://lena.upf.edu/>