The main purpose of this course is to equip students with some research skills and experience. The course will first expose students to a wide range of research topics. Guided by the teachers, students will then select a topic for presentation and a short paper. The paper should be a critical comment on a literature or a sub-set of the literature, or a brief empirical analysis of a selected issue.

Evaluation: Attendance & Presentation (35%) and Paper (65%)

Class arrangement:
January 14, 21: Prof. SHI Kang on Macroeconomics and Chinese Economy
February 18, 25: Prof. Meng Lingsheng on Reduced Form Labor Economics
March 3, 10: Prof. GUO Naijia on Structural Labour Economics
March to April: Each teacher meets with his/her own students
April/ May: Student presentation (20 minutes each)

Topics on Macroeconomics and Chinese Economy

- Roads and the Real Exchange Rate, Qinyuan Du, Shang-Jin Wei and Peichu, Xie, 2013, NBER working paper w19291.
- Equilibrium Consequences of Corruption on Firms: Evidence from China's Anti-Corruption Campaign (with Haoyuan Ding, Hanming Fang and Shu Lin), July 2017

Topics on Reduced Form Labor Economics

Starred readings in this section will be required, other readings are optional.

Background readings:
J.D. Angrist and J.S. Pischke, Mostly Harmless Econometrics: An Empiricist's Companion, Princeton University Press, 2009 (abbrev. as MHE)
This book covers the empirical techniques we will discuss. While the focus is on the econometrics, many of the examples in the book are relevant to the human capital literature.

1. Investment in Schooling and the Earnings Function

2. Returns to Schooling – Regression Control and Measurement Error
*MHE, sections 3.1 and 3.2

3. Returns to Schooling – Instrumental Variables
*MHE, sections 4.1, 4.4, 4.5, 4.6.4


4. Returns to Schooling – Fixed Effects


*O. Sandewal, D. Cesarini, and M. Johannesson, “The co-twin methodology and returns to schooling – testing critical a assumption,” mimeographed, 2009, LSE


*MHE, section 5.1

5. Compulsory Schooling Laws – Differences in Differences


*MHE, section 5.2

**6. The Signaling Model of Schooling**


**7. School Resources – Experiments**


*MHE chapter 2

**8. School Resources – Regression Discontinuity Design**


*MHE chapter 6

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**Topics on Structural Labour Economics**

- Kean and Wolpin, “The Role of Labor and Marriage Markets, Preference

- Lemieux and Thomas, “Increasing Residual Wage Inequality: Composition Effects, Noisy Data, or Rising Demand for Skill?”, American Economic Review 2006
- Postel-Vinay and Robin, “Equilibrium Wage Dispersion with Worker and Employer Heterogeneity”, Econometrica 2002