




INSTITUTE OF ECONOMICS · UNIVERSITY OF ULM

Empirical Analyses & Studies with R

Seminar Introductory Meeting

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Introductory Meeting · 08.07.2026



SECTION 01

Organizational Matters

Dates, milestones, and requirements

01

Key Dates

Milestone	Date
Submission of paper preferences	31.07.2026
Latest registration in the Studium & Lehre portal	13.11.2026
Latest deregistration in the Studium & Lehre portal	13.11.2026
Submission of slides, RMarkdown & HTML	13.01.2027
Presentation date I	tba (likely end of January)
Presentation date II	tba (likely end of January)

Additionally, individually arranged meeting dates with the supervisor. Please always check the final dates on the [seminar page](#).

Meeting dates – Example

Today

Introductory meeting

Clarify organization, procedure, and expectations; open questions.

I

Meeting I — Outline & Scope

Proposed outline, agreement on the replication scope, possibly a first replicated figure or regression. (by mid-November at the latest)

II

Meeting II — Replication

Discussion of the existing replication with respect to quality and scope. (by mid-December at the latest)

III

Meeting III — Presentation

Feedback on the presentation, **at the very latest** one week before submission.

Meetings I–III are arranged individually with the supervisor, who is assigned after the research paper has been selected. No meeting dates are offered for the week before submission.

Requirements

Your own analyses in R

Replication or creation of at least **one of your own figures** and **one regression in an RMarkdown document** with coherent commenting of the R code. This is the minimum requirement to pass the written part - typically, however, several up to all central results are replicated.

Presentation

Presentation of the core content of the research paper, including the results you replicated yourself. The presentation should be prepared in a way that is clear and easy to follow for the audience.


Reproducible Code

Submission of the **RMarkdown**-document and the HTML file generated from it, containing the **replication** of the figures and regressions. The code must be written such that we can fully reproduce the results directly from the raw data, i.e. including data cleaning. Exceptions are only possible with a prior differing agreement.

Guidance

Examples of successful past work can be found on the seminar page. They show the scope, depth, and presentation we expect:

<https://www.uni-ulm.de/mawi/mawi-wiwi/forschung-und-lehre/seminare/empirische-analysen-mit-r-b-und-empirische-studien-mit-r-m/>



SECTION 02

Paper & Talk

Selection, structure, and general conditions

02

Selecting the research paper

Option 1: Suggestion list

- [List](#) of suggestions on the seminar page. It is updated annually; papers already covered are removed, and new ones are added.
- Send three papers ranked by preference via email to **all** supervisors (in cc).
- Assignment then follows the first-come-first-serve principle.

Option 2: Your own suggestion

- **Important:** Data and Stata code must be available (check beforehand).
- Searching with ejd.econ.mathematik.uni-ulm.de is recommended
- There must be no RTutor problem set (<https://github.com/skranz/RTutor>) for the paper.
- The paper must contain at least one replicable figure and one regression.
- Your own suggestion is only possible with timely prior agreement with the supervisor.

Core Content

Research question

Which **core question** does the study investigate? Brief **introduction** to the topic. Which **causal effect** is to be estimated exactly?

Data

What are the data, **where** do they come from (place, time)? Show a few rows of the most important dataset, as well as descriptive statistics and charts that give a good **overview**.

Methodology

How does the study estimate the causal effect? Why is a simple approach potentially problematic (**endogeneity**)? **Why** do the authors proceed this way?

Core results

Show and **interpret** the core result. Usually a regression, sometimes also a graphical representation. Articles often have very dense tables with various regressions. Focus on the core result. Create your own table in which the important coefficients can be seen clearly and large. Interpret the **effect size** and also the **precision** of the estimator. If you have time, you can also address further results and robustness checks.

Discussion

Are there **weaknesses** or **problems** in the study? What would an ideal dataset for further studies look like? Which **questions** remain open?

Further aspects

Source attribution

In both the **HTML** and the **slide set**, indicate precisely which figures / analyses were taken from the paper and which you replicated yourself. Clear **labeling is mandatory**.

Literature & Appendix of the presentation

Complete **bibliography** (consistent citation style, easier with a reference-management program, e.g. Zotero).

If needed, an appendix for important further analyses that do not fit into the main talk time-wise. This approach is also good preparation for follow-up questions.

Discussion & Audience

Incorporate smaller questions during the talk to actively involve the audience. At the end, pose a prepared **discussion question**.

Stata & AI

Stata is available via remote access (you will receive the instructions on request by email).

The critical use of **AI** tools is explicitly **recommended**. However, you should always understand and verify the content.

General conditions of the presentation

Free speaking

The talk is delivered freely. **Free speaking is mandatory.**
Bullet-point presenter notes (as possible e.g. with PowerPoint, Quarto, ioslides) are allowed as an aid.
The use of fully written-out sentences in the presenter notes is not permitted.

Prefer bullet points


Make sure to use short, concise bullet points on the slides rather than long running text or full sentences. Clarity takes priority over amount of text.

Time & Format

Total time 40 minutes: **25 minutes talk** and **15 minutes discussion**. Formats PPT, PPTX, or PDF; alternatively slides directly in R (e.g. via Quarto, ioslides, ...).

Submission & Finality

Slides, RMarkdown, and HTML one week (see overview slide “Key Dates”) before the date **by email** to your supervisor.
The submitted version is final; after that, **no further changes** are possible. So you will also present with the submitted version!



SECTION 03

Assessment

Criteria and grade determination

03

Assessment criteria

Presentation of the research paper

- Facts are correct
- Methodology & results are presented informatively and clearly

Results in R

- Results are correct
- R code is well commented & understandable
- Sensible use of R packages
- Appropriate level of sophistication of the analyses

Discussion

- Answers are correct and sensible
- Well prepared & answered confidently
- Own discussion question prepared

Slide set

- Clear layout & readability
- Sources are labeled (including tables and figures, otherwise **min. – 0.3 grade points** deduction)
- Correct spelling

Delivery

- Free speaking
- Confident demeanor
- Body language & voice
- Audience is engaged

Formalities

- Time limits & deadlines were met
- Details on the title slide are complete



INTRODUCTORY MEETING

Questions?

We are happy to discuss open points directly.

