A GCEP Masterclass

The Role of Theory and Uncertainty in Policy Evaluation
Charles Manski, Northwestern University
Kenneth Wolpin, Rice University

March 31-April 1, 2016

This masterclass brings together two highly distinguished economists to examine the role of theory and uncertainty in policy evaluation. It is organized in six sessions. The first session focuses on the use of descriptive statistics. The second session discusses partial identification of the treatment response model using the right-to-carry laws as a case study. The third session considers partial identification of a structural model. The fourth session, complementary to the third, examines ex ante policy evaluation using both parametric and nonparametric approaches. The fifth session discusses the policy use of discrete choice dynamic programming models and will cover both methodological issues and empirical applications. The final session is devoted to a discussion of the importance of (simple) theory in inferential empirical work.

Location
Georgetown University School of Continuing Studies, 640 Massachusetts Ave NW, Washington DC 20001

Program

Day One: Thursday, March 31, 2016

10:30 – 11:00am  Registration and Coffee
11:00 – 12:30pm  Session 1 (Manski): Communicating uncertainty in official economic statistics
12:30 – 1:45pm    Lunch
1:45 – 3:15pm    Session 2 (Manski): Partial identification of treatment response
                 (Coffee Break 3:15-3:30)
3:30 – 5:00pm   Session 3 (Manski): Partial identification of structural models.

Day Two: Friday, April 1, 2016

10 – 10:30am    Coffee
10:30 – 12:30pm Session 4 (Wolpin): Ex-ante policy evaluation: parametric and nonparametric approaches
                 (Coffee Break 11:15-11:30)
12:30 – 1:45pm  Lunch
1:45 – 3:15pm   Session 5 (Wolpin): Policy use of discrete-choice dynamic-programming models
                 (Coffee Break 3:15-3:30)
3:30 – 4:30pm   Session 6 (Wolpin): The limits of inference without theory.