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BA-Spezialmodul Quantitative Methoden (WS 2014):
“Microeconomic Analysis of Household Surveys”

Aim of the seminar:

The aim of the seminar is to teach students how to apply microeconomic methods to household surveys, such as the Socioeconomic Panel (SOEP) for Germany or the European household survey SHARE. Some knowledge of (micro)econometrics and experience with data analysis is assumed. Each student is expected to write an empirical paper and present it in the seminar. The paper may be a replication of an earlier study or an original study (more difficult). The replication study would also involve a critical assessment of the underlying assumptions, alternative specifications of regression equations, and alternative sample selections, and could also apply the methodology of a previous paper to another data set. Students will be provided with appropriate household survey data and software (STATA). A brief introduction to the seminar and possible research topics are presented by the organizers at the preliminary meeting (“Vorbereitung”). Own research topics may also be suggested by students, if appropriate for the seminar.

Requirements:

In addition to the preliminary meeting, there will be two meetings: In the first of these students will briefly present their research topic including a summary of previous research, the proposed methodology, data to be used, and perhaps already some preliminary descriptive analyses. In the second meeting completed papers will be presented and discussed. The final paper is due about two weeks after this second meeting. Depending on the topic (supervisor), the paper and the presentation may be in English or German. The grade will be made up of the final paper, the presentation of the paper, and the participation in the seminar. The paper should be no more than 15 pages including figures and tables. Relevant supplementary material can be included in an Appendix. A good guide for the structure and the format of the paper can be found in J. Wooldridge, *Introductory Econometrics*, Chapter 19.5: “Writing an Empirical Paper”, 4 ed., South Western, 2009.

Time table:

- **Preliminary meeting:** Tuesday, 14th October, 13:30 – 15:00 (Boltzmannstr. 20, Kaminzimmer)
- **Second meeting:** early December (exact date to be determined at the preliminary meeting)
- **Third meeting:** mid-February (exact date to be determined at the preliminary meeting)