

Publishing in Academic Journals

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Biography



➤ Current Position

-- Professor, Dept. Agricultural Economics, NTU

➤ Education

-- Ph.D, Applied Economics and Management, Cornell University

-- Master, Agricultural Economics, National Taiwan University

-- Bachelor, Agricultural Economics, National Taiwan University

➤ Personal Website:

<http://homepage.ntu.edu.tw/~hunghaochang/>

Academic Activities

- 2021- Co-Editor, *Food Policy*
- 2022- Advisory Editorial Board, *Journal of Agribusiness Marketing*
- 2015-2023 Associate Editor, *Agricultural Economics*
- 2017- Associate Editor, *Journal of Agribusiness in Developing and Emerging Economies (JADEE)*
- 2017-2020 Editor and Managing Editor, *Agricultural and Resource Economics Review*
- 2012-2015 Editorial Board, *Applied Economic Perspectives and Policy*

Outline of Today's Talk

- Evolution of Economic Analysis Over Time
- Data Source
- Causality
- My Experience on Publication Strategies

Type of Economic Fields

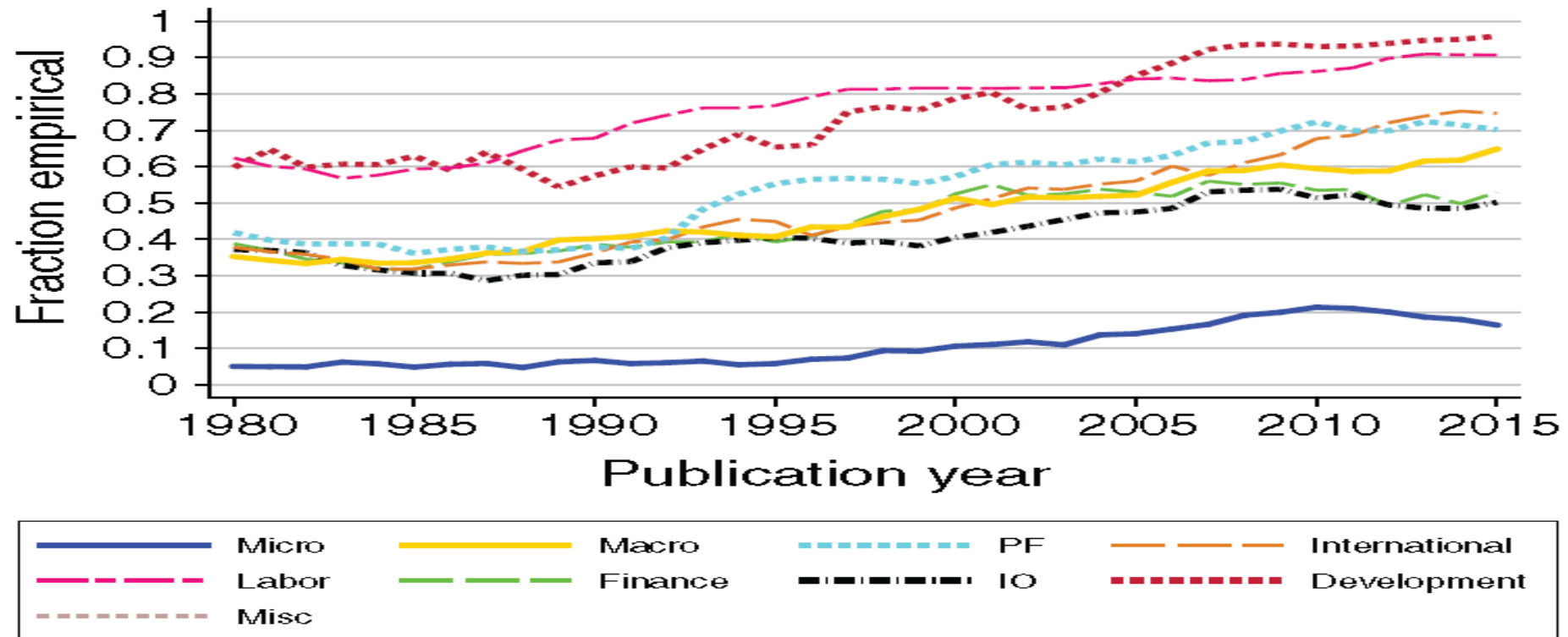


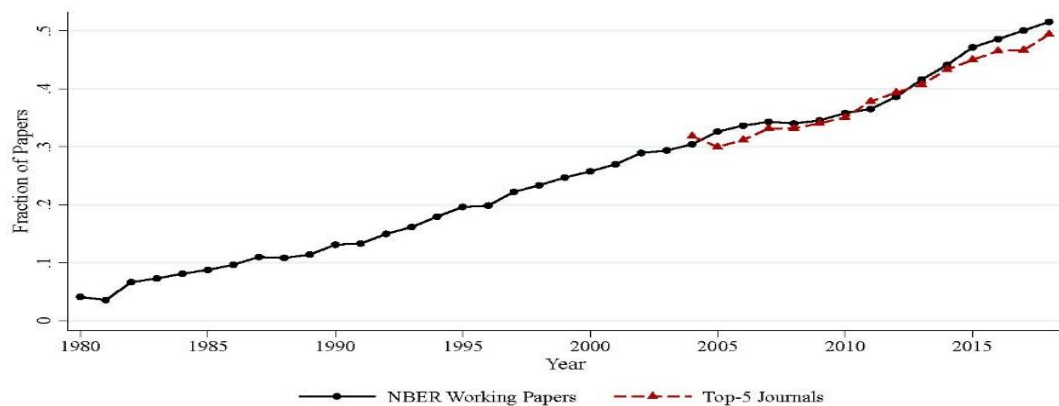
FIGURE 4. WEIGHTED FRACTION EMPIRICAL BY FIELD

Note: Five-year moving averages of the weighted fraction of publications in each field that are empirical.

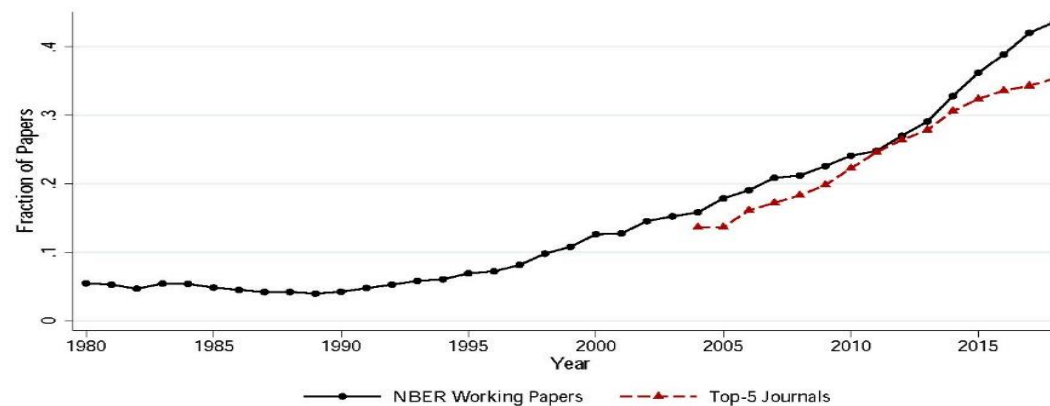
Data Used in Economic Analysis

Figure II: The Credibility Revolution

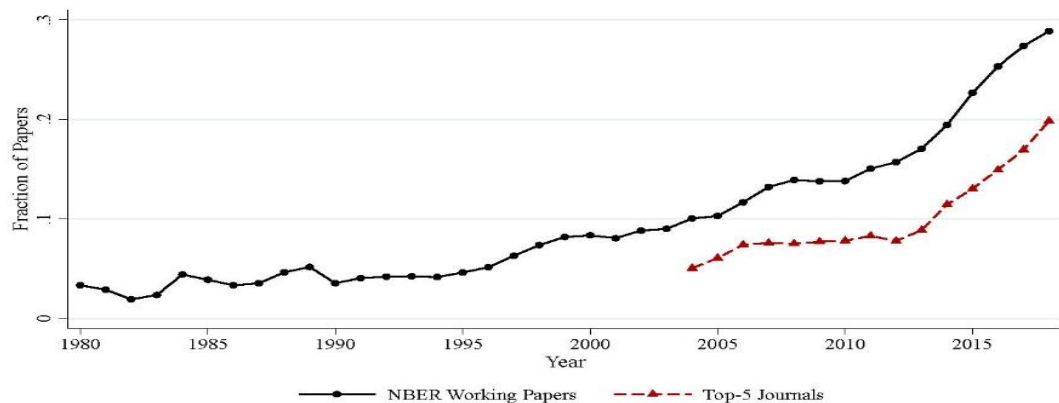
A: Identification



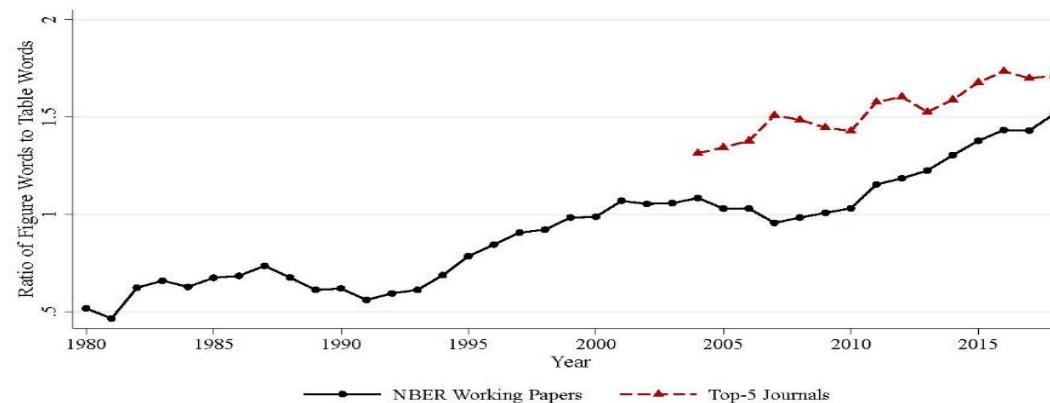
B: All Experimental and Quasi-Experimental Methods



C: Administrative Data



D: Graphical Revolution



Notes: This figure shows different dimensions of the “credibility revolution” in economics: Identification (Panel A), All Experimental and Quasi-Experimental Methods (Panel B), Administrative Data (Panel C), and the Graphical Revolution (Panel D). Panel D shows the ratio of the number of ‘Figure’ terms to the number of ‘Table’ terms mentioned. See Table A.I for a list of terms. The series show 5-year moving averages.

Evolution of Data Source Over Time

“Which came first, the data or the idea?”

Causation **from data to ideas**

- Stafford, F. (1986), “Forestalling the demise of Empirical Economics: The Role of Microdata in Labor Economics Research,” *Handbook of Labor Economics*, Vol. 1.
- For example:
- **The creation of the Panel Study of Income dynamics(PSID).**
The inter-generational transmission of inequality

Data in Social Science Research

Made Data Experimental	Made Data Observational (e.g. Social Surveys)	Found Data Administrative Data	Found Data Other Types of Big Data
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Data are collected to investigate a fixed hypothesis.• Usually relatively small in size.• Usually relatively uncomplex.• Highly systematic.• Known sample / population.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Data may be used to address multiple research questions.• Data may be very large and complex (but usually smaller than big data).• Highly systematic.• Known sample / population.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Data are not collected for research purposes.• May be large and complex.• Semi-systematic.• May be messy (i.e. may involve extensive data management to clean and organise the data).• Multidimensional (i.e. may involve multiple fragments of data which have to be brought together through data linkage).• Usually a known sample / population.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Data are not collected for research purposes.• May be very large and very complex.• Some sources will be very unsystematic (e.g. data from social media posts).• Very messy / chaotic.• Multidimensional (i.e. may involve multiple fragments of data which have to be brought together through data linkage).• Sample / population usually unknown.

Fig 1. Characteristics of quantitative social science data resources.

Empirical Research

1. Survey Data

US : PSID

Taiwan: Family Farm Survey

2. Government Administrative Data

Health Claim Data, Tax Data

Administrative Data: Pros and Cons

Pro: Large Sample

- Objective indicators of health and education outcomes available for full sample
- Sibling or twin comparisons possible (useful for identification)
- Long follow up period
- Heterogeneous effects of policies

Con:

- Outcomes limited to those in data bases that can be merged in, Limited background information.
- Obstacle in the use of administrative registers, Political issues related to anonymity, (experience in Nordic countries).

Causality

Recognition of the Importance of Causal Inference



EKONOMIPRISET 2021
THE PRIZE IN ECONOMIC SCIENCES 2021



David Card, USA

*"för hans empiriska bidrag till
arbetsmarknadsekonomi"*

*"for his empirical contributions to
labour economics"*
#nobelprize



Joshua D. Angrist, USA

*"för deras metodologiska bidrag till analysen av
kausala samband"*

*"for their methodological contributions to the analysis
of causal relationships"*

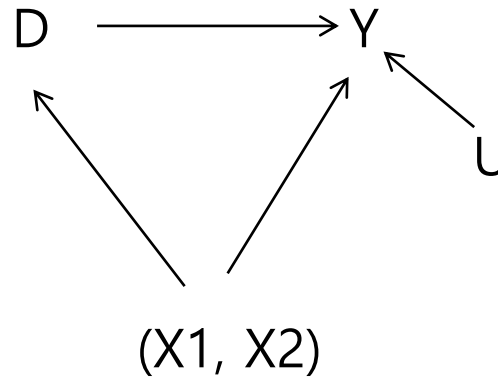


Guido W. Imbens, USA



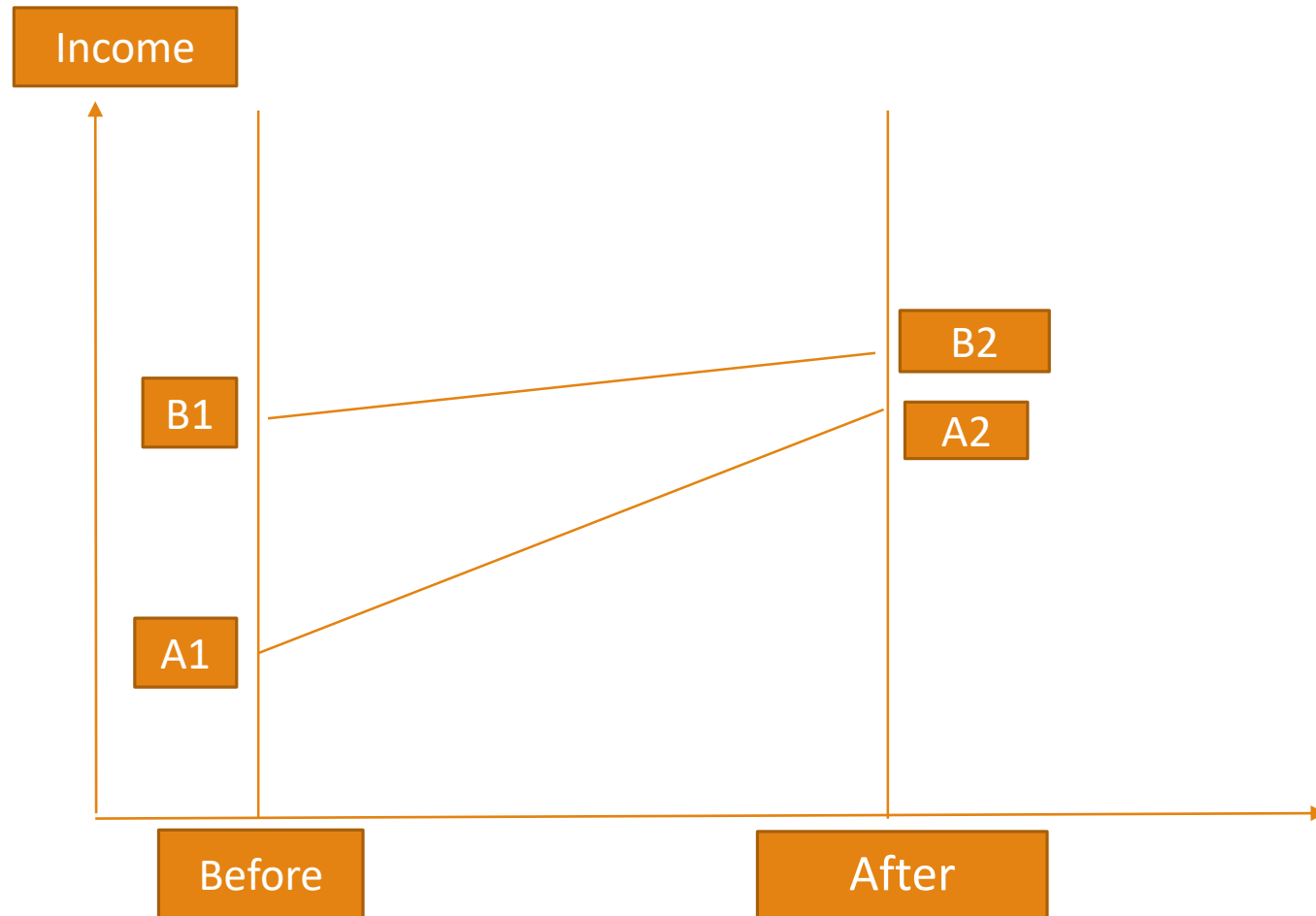
What is Causality?

- Confounding may arise from common causes in observational studies:



- *D: Having Endowment Chair in the Conference*
- *Y: Happiness of the Audience*
- *X1: Five-star Hotels ; X2: Weather*
- *U: unobserved other factors*

Why is causality so important?



- Group A (policy recipients), Group B (non-recipients).
- If comparing 1 year data, recipients have lower income. Does policy lower farm income?
- If comparing two years data, recipients' income increased after the policy!

Why should we focus on causality?

- Understanding a causal relationship is useful for making predictions about the consequences of changing circumstances or policies.
- Causal inference is a type of statistical methods that help us verify the causal relationship
- In general, a typical causal question is:

The effect of a treatment on an outcome

- Outcome: A variable that we are interested in.
- Treatment: A variable that has the (causal) effect on our outcome.

Endogeneity Bias (very common on observed data)

If we have collected data of several rounds of conferences with participants, we want to know the effect of having an endowment chair on participants' happiness. We run a simple OLS regression model as:

$$Y = B_0 + B_1 * D_1 + B_2 * X_2 + u;$$

$$\frac{\partial Y}{\partial D} = B_1 + \frac{\partial u}{\partial D}$$

We need $\text{Cov}(D_1, u) = 0$

Endogeneity Bias is Almost Everywhere

Solutions

- Random Control Trial (RCT)
- Selection on Observables (SOO): OLS, Matching, Propensity Score Matching
- Selection on Unobservables (SOU): Difference-in-Differences, Regression Discontinuity, Panel Data, Instrumental Variable

Selection on Observables (SOO)

Identification Assumption

- ① $(Y_1, Y_0) \perp\!\!\!\perp D | X$ (selection on observables, conditional independence assumption)
- ② $0 < \Pr(D = 1|X) < 1$ (common support)

Identification Result

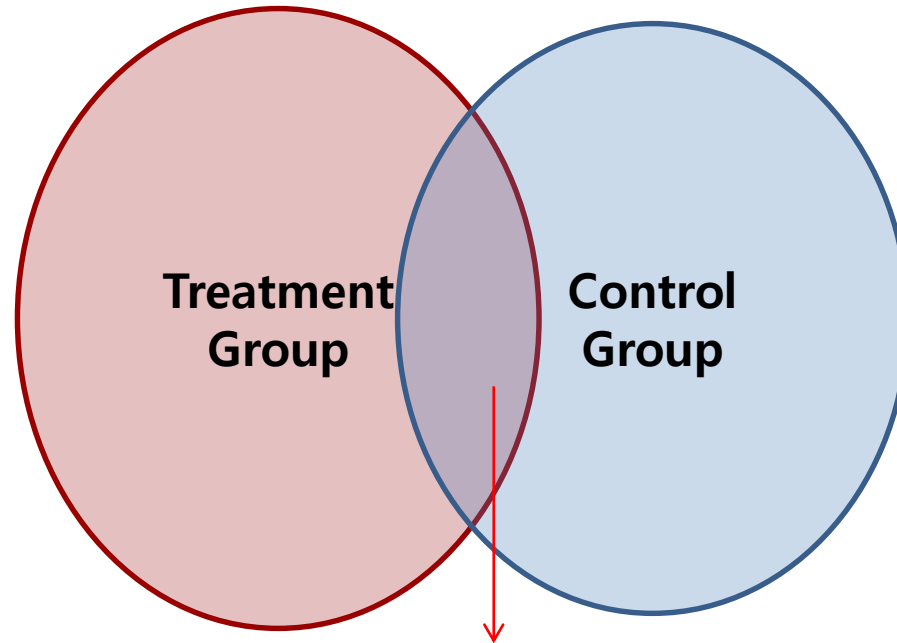
Given selection on observables we have

$$\begin{aligned} E[Y_1 - Y_0|X] &= E[Y_1 - Y_0|X, D = 1] \\ &= E[Y|X, D = 1] - E[Y|X, D = 0] \end{aligned}$$

Therefore, under the common support condition:

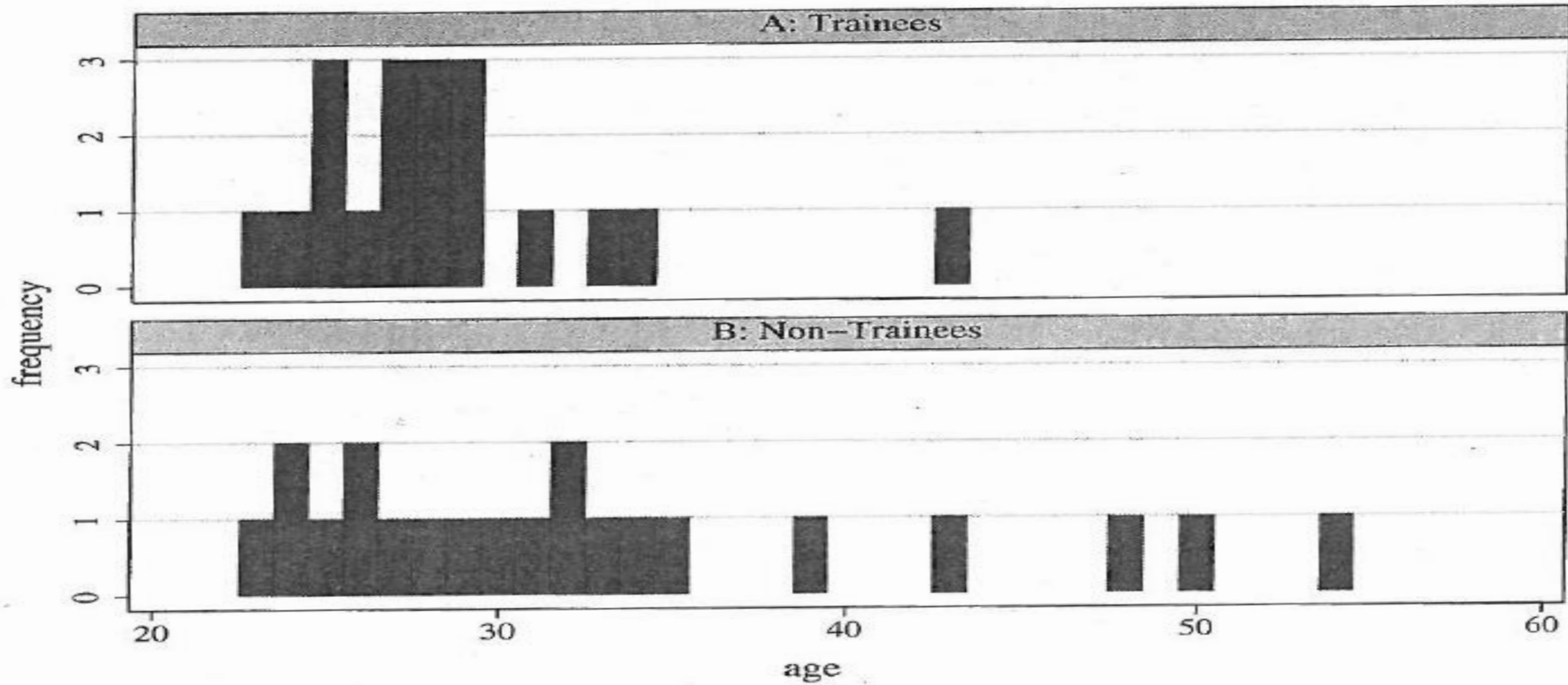
$$\begin{aligned} \alpha_{ATE} &= E[Y_1 - Y_0] = \int E[Y_1 - Y_0|X]dP(X) \\ &= \int (E[Y|X, D = 1] - E[Y|X, D = 0])dP(X) \end{aligned}$$

Idea of the SOO Approach

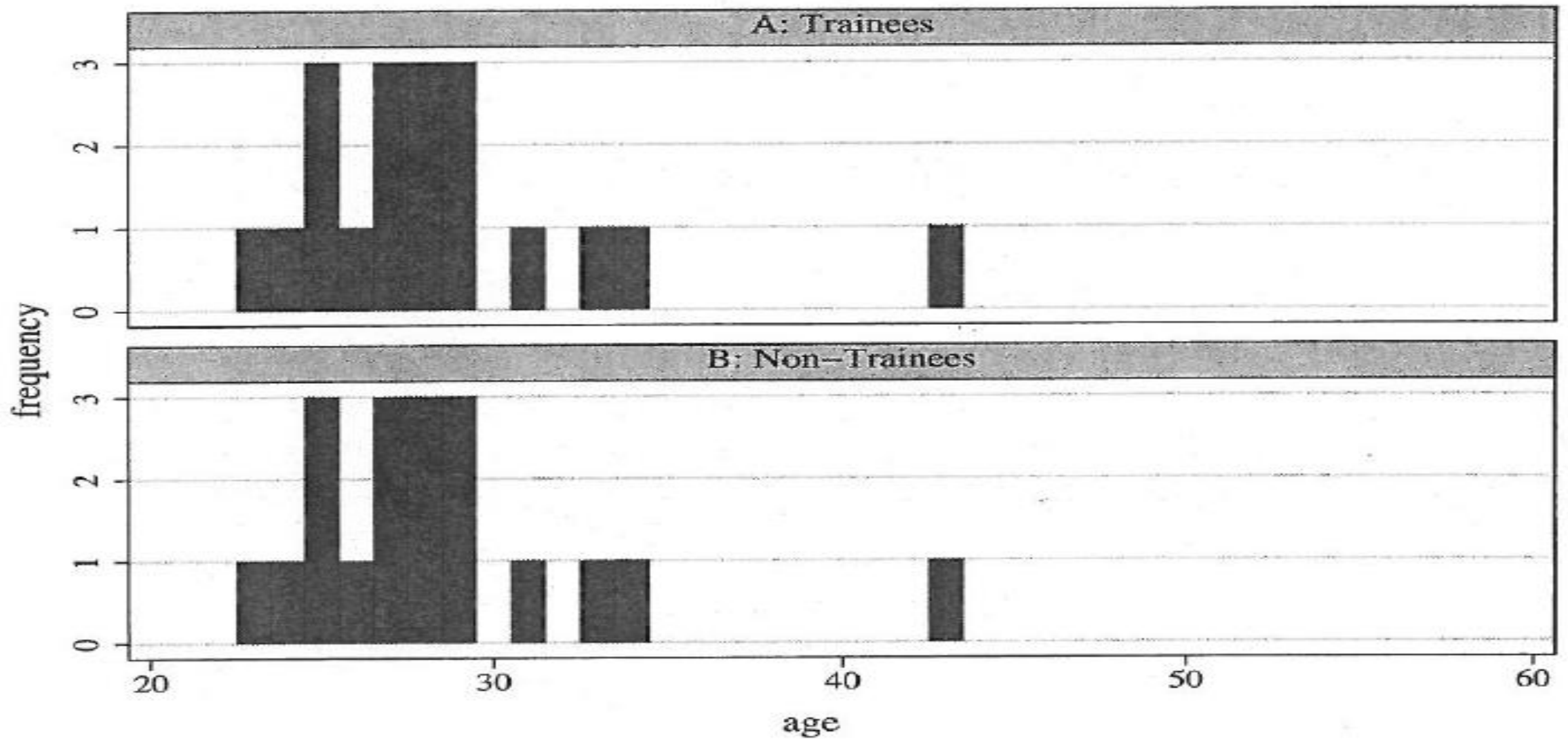


Two groups' characteristics which can be observed have the same distribution.
Treatment effects without selection bias can be assumed.

Age Distribution: Before Matching



Age Distribution: After Matching



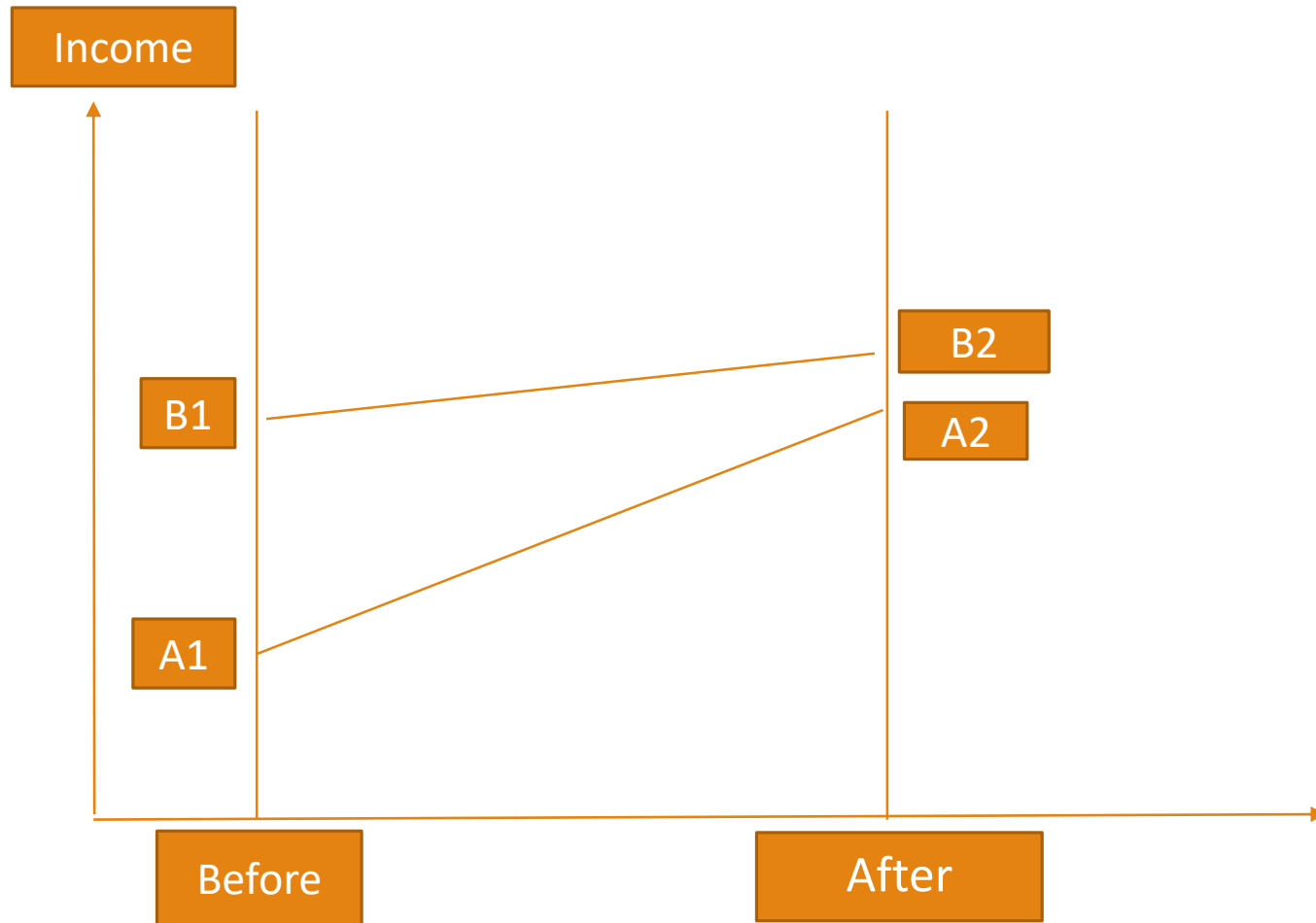
Propensity Score Matching

- Use the idea of the SOO
- Instead of matching in characteristics, we use the propensity to be treated as the covariate.
- How does this differ from OLS approach ?

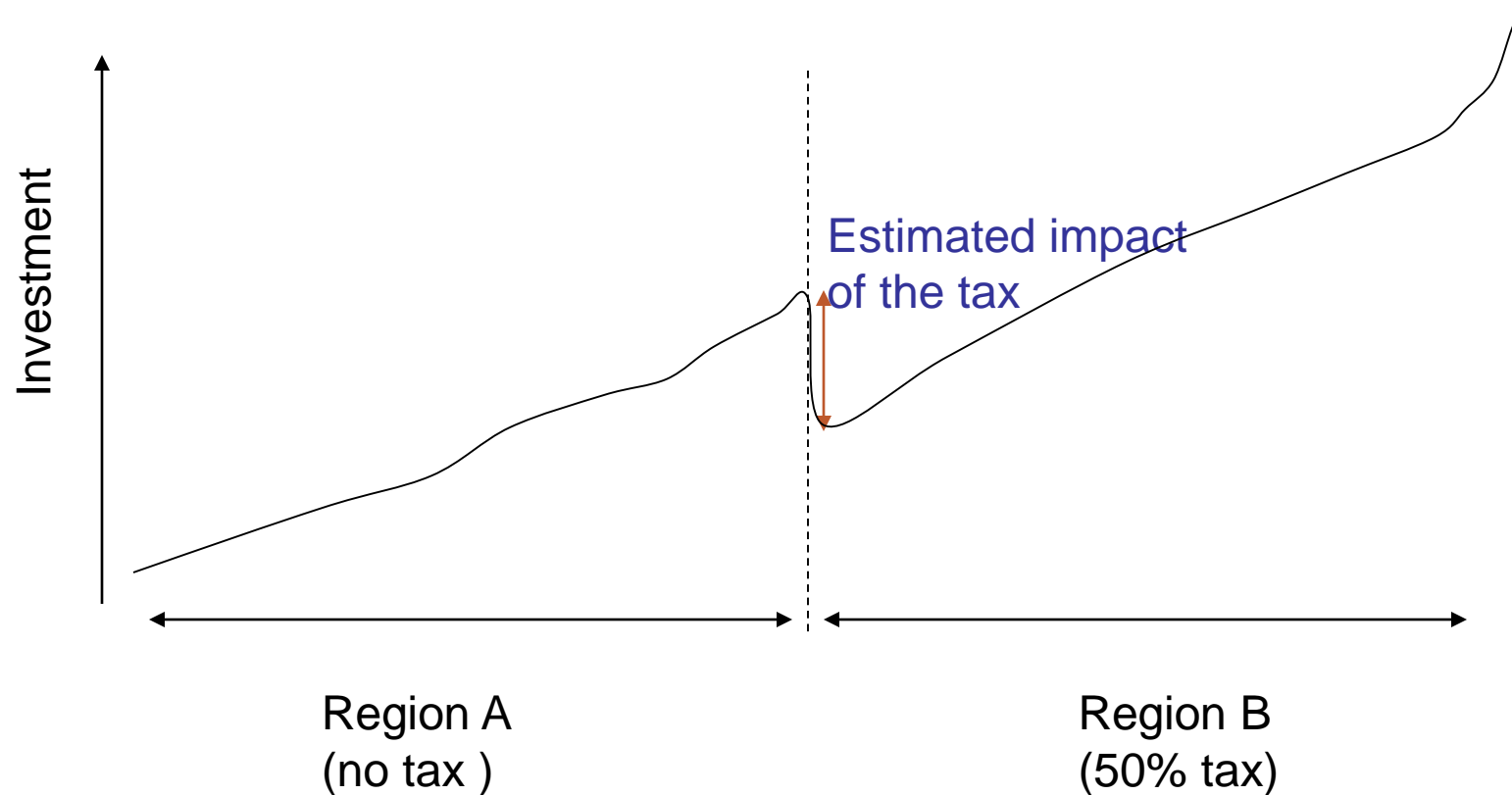
Do you Like SOO Approach ?

- The idea of the SOO Approach is straightforward
- The SOO, such as OLS and Matching, is easy to be implemented.
- But, what are the drawbacks?
 - You have to know almost “**everything**” of the story.
 - You have to play “GOD” to make a SOO approach validated.

The Difference-in-Differences method



Regression Discontinuity Design



Sharing of My Research Experience

Things You Need to Know

- What are the hot research topics?
- What are the hot research approaches?
- How to conduct your research ?
- Popular journals in agricultural and environmental economics
- My recent research paper

How to select a research topic?

➤ **Something we don't know that much so far**

-- e.g., a new policy scheme; new application to a country/area; emerging hot issues

➤ **Something we have known, but are interested in knowing more**

-- e.g., advanced method with new results; longstanding topics with updated results (deeper analysis is required)

➤ **Something we can provide solid/better/new evidence**

-- e.g., quantitative analysis

Research topics Selection

My simple rule : Wine vs. Bottle

- Material (wine) vs. Topic (bottle)
- Old bottle with new wine
- New bottle with old wine
- New bottle with new wine

- Impacts of Disaster Payments on Farmland Values
- Impacts of Disaster Payments on Farmland Values: An Application of the Matching Frontier Model
- Impacts of Disaster Payments on Farmland Values: Empirical Evidence of Fruit Farms in Taipei City

What do you expect to see behind each title?

Contribution

- To me, all of these three papers are publishable. All of them are worthy to read. However, it will depend on how you highlight/find your contribution and how solid of evidence you provide.
- Contribution
 - closely connect to previous studies (literature review)
 - make it a general or broad idea (concept)
 - be humble/honest on your contribution

Example I

While there have been fewer studies specifically focusing on the consumption structure of livestock products for rural residents, some studies have utilized yearbook data or research data to analyze the trends, characteristics, and factors influencing livestock product consumption [16].

Therefore, to bridge the research gap, identifying the characteristics and determinants of rural residents' consumption structure of livestock products, we explore the key factors affecting the consumption structure of livestock products of rural residents from the perspective of household characteristics and regional heterogeneity by using the Logit model based on the survey data of 4529 rural residents across 10 provinces in China. Our research is envisioned to put forward countermeasures and suggestions to optimize and promote the consumption structure of livestock products of rural residents in China.

Example II

Several unique features set this article apart from previous studies on similar topics. First, we use a unique large-scale survey of 160,380 farm households, drawn from the 2005 Agricultural Census Survey in Taiwan. To obtain an objective measurement of the receipt of OFP payment, we merged the Agricultural Census Survey data with a national administrative dataset on Farmer Health Insurance program profiles from 2005 for each principal farm operator. Second, in contrast to most of the existing studies that simply regard participation in governmental social welfare programs as an exogenous factor in relation to farm succession (e.g., Pietola, Vare, and Lansink 2003), we carefully examine the causal effect of program participation on farm succession using a proposed analytical framework that combines the strengths of the regression discontinuity design, the inverse probability weighting method, and the difference-in-difference method. Third, we provide a discussion of the mechanisms that may link the OFP program and farm succession.

Example III

The lack of evidence is reflected in how different countries, especially in the EU, have adopted vastly different school meal policies.² Sweden, Finland, and Estonia have since long served nutritious school lunches to all pupils free of charge, while children in neighbouring countries, such as Norway and Denmark, bring their own lunch package to school. France, Italy, and Great Britain serve school lunches according to nutritional standards, but the meals are means tested and comes at a cost for most families. Germany has adopted a universal school lunch program, but without any mandatory nutritional requirements. The overall picture is that governments around the world have moved to impose stricter nutritional standards on school meals, but evidence on the long-term impacts of such initiatives is lacking.

This study provides evidence on the long-term benefits of universal school meal policies. Specifically, we ask whether a policy that introduced nutritious school lunches free of charge for all pupils in Swedish primary schools between 1959 and 1969 improved children's economic, educational, and health outcomes throughout life. The policy imposed strict nutritional standards on the meals served, which were to contain specified amounts of proteins, vitamins, calcium, and

Structure of a reasonable empirical paper

- Introduction
- Background information
- Theory/working hypotheses
- Method and materials
- Results and Discussion
- Conclusion and Policy Implication

Introduction

- What issues are you addressing ?
- Elaborate the importance of the issue/topic
- How do you answer these research questions?
- What do you find in this paper?
- Major findings and contributions

Literature Review

- Of course, this section has to review relevant articles or work (type of writing styles).
- What kinds of articles should I include?
- Have I reviewed enough materials?
- Make sure to summarize the findings of the previous studies
- Select papers in good quality journals

Results and Discussions

- This part is almost the heart of the paper.
- Make sure to present the results precisely.
- Show the validation of the results (placebo test, robustness check).
- Discussions should be highly connected with your results (again, be humble and professional !).

Components of Good Empirical Paper

- An attractive topic
- Clear writing and presentation
- Free of errors or mistakes
- Solid empirical analysis
- Deep analysis or elaboration of the results

Writing your paper

Be humble

- How details should we provide ?
- How many tables should I present?
- Should I show the drawback of my study?

Where to Submit My Paper ?

Game on only after you finished your draft !

- Which journal should I submit?
- Is this version ready to go?
- How to handle reviewers' comments?

Where to Submit?

- Mainstream journals in each field
 - **Economics:** American Economic Review (AER); QJE; J Political Econ.
 - **Agricultural Economics:** American Journal of Agricultural Economics (AJAE); European Review of Agricultural Economics (ERAЕ).
 - **Environmental Economics:** JEEM, JAREA, Land Economics.
 - **Development Economics:** Journal of Development Economics (JDE).
 - **Food and Consumption Economics:** Food Policy

Agricultural Economics Journals

➤ AJAE & ERAE : First tier journals, **require new wine in new bottle**

American Journal of Agricultural Economics

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Impact Factor
2.457

5 year Impact Factor
2.437

Latest Issue
Volume 100,
Issue 5
October
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Travis Lybbert
Timothy

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Latest Issue
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Issue 4
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Economic Development Journals



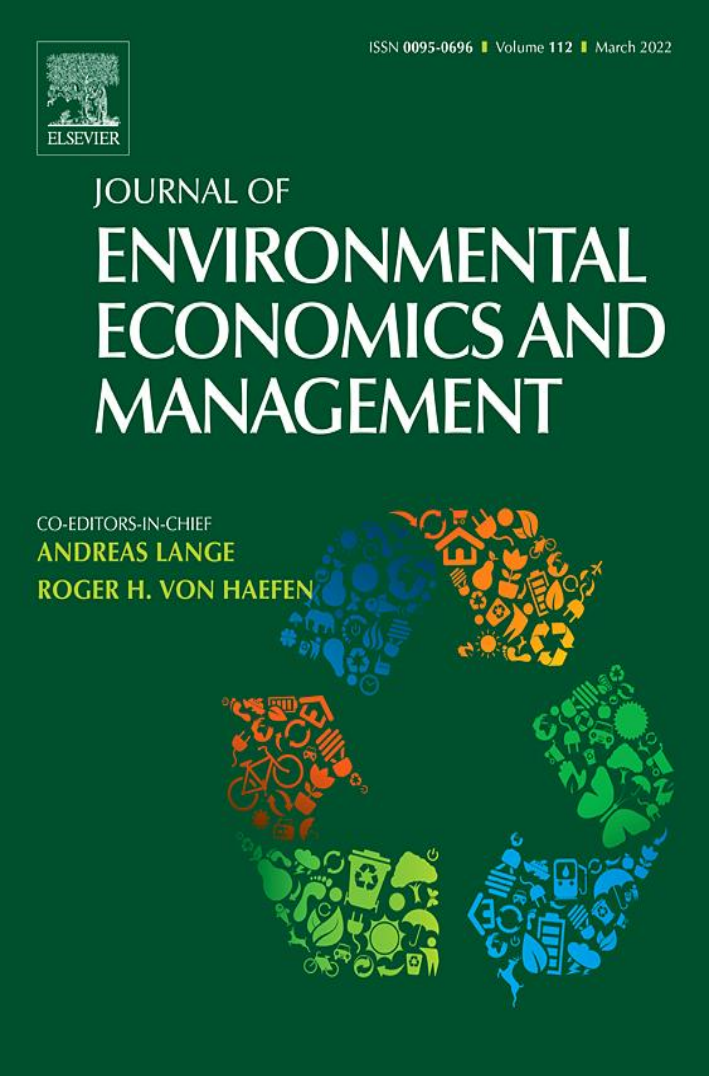
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Environmental Economics Journals





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Different Level Journals Publish Different Papers

New Wine in New Bottle

Estimating *Ex Ante* Cost Functions for Stochastic Technologies



Robert G Chambers; Teresa Serra

American Journal of Agricultural Economics, aay068, <https://doi.org/10.1093/ajae/aay068>

Published: 11 October 2018 **Section:** Article

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Nutrient Production and Micronutrient Gaps: Evidence from an Agriculture–Nutrition Randomized Control Trial



Andrew Dillon; Joanne Arsenault; Deanna Olney

American Journal of Agricultural Economics, aay067, <https://doi.org/10.1093/ajae/aay067>

Published: 10 October 2018 **Section:** Article

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Comment on “Estimating the Productivity Impacts of Technology Adoption in the Presence of Misclassification”



Karen Macours

American Journal of Agricultural Economics, aay078, <https://doi.org/10.1093/ajae/aay078>

Published: 4 October 2018 **Section:** Comment

[Extract](#) ▾ [View article](#)

Experimental Evidence on Policy Approaches That Link Agricultural Subsidies to Water Quality Outcomes



Leah H Palm-Forster; Jordan F Suter; Kent D Messer

New(Old) Wine in Old(New) Bottle

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Anna Folke Larsen

First Published: 10 October 2018

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Guillaume Pierre, Jonathan Kaminski

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David Boussios, Paul V. Preckel, Yigezu A. Yigezu, Prakash N. Dixit, Samia Akroush,

Is This Version Ready to Go?

- There is no perfect answer depending on your experience
- Check recent papers published in that journal
- Peer Opinion (**value of your senior co-authors**)

Decision of your submissions

- Desk rejection
- Under review
- Major Revision; Minor Revision

New one: Expedited Submission

How to Handle Reviewers' Comments?

- Basic Idea: Treat review comments seriously
- Read twice & think about these comments carefully
- Check deadline of the revision
- Read the handling editor's overall comments carefully.
- How to treat rejected manuscripts?

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Conferences

- Should I attend conferences to present my paper?
- What is the “purpose” of doing this ?
- Attitude to present a paper

My overall comments on paper writing

- Read good quality papers
- Focus on limited topics of your research
- Be patient of your research work
- Connect your expertise with new or hot topics
- For policy studies, get yourself familiar with policy context
- Find an appropriate method and data
- To present your paper before submitting it to journals

Bad Example of Papers

- So-What Paper ?
- Too much technical details in the model section
- Weak discussions or even no discussions
- Not humble enough to sell the paper
- Non-conventional English Writing (directly translate from other language)

Hot Topics in Recent Years

- SDG (Sustainable Development Goals)
- Circular Economy
- ESG (Environment, Social, and Governance)
- Carbon Neutrality / Net Zero
- Post-COVID-19

The End

