

Quantitative Methods for Public Policy Analysis

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Overview

Whether they should or they shouldn't, numbers, data and quantitative methods matter in policy and in policy analysis. Policy and political analysts use numbers treated with quantitative methods in evidence-based research about whether policy interventions are successful. Policymakers use numbers to support (sometimes normative) arguments about whether government should (or should not) provide particular services or engage in policy change and reforms. This course presents the quantitative methods needed in public policy analysis. Particularly the focus will be on statistical methods for causal inference presented in simple and introductory format: regression based methods like difference-in-differences, instrumental variable estimation, regression discontinuity designs. How these different methods adjust to the non-experimental and mostly observational data used in political science?

