1 Final Exam

The test is a take home exam. The objective is to write a critical review of one of the papers in the references. We have selected several papers on different topics: agriculture, crime, environment, migration, social issues, unemployment, land and urban economics. The papers that we selected are published on indexed journals and have been subject to double-blind peer review. There are many advantages of writing a critical review on a peer reviewed paper. Firstly, this type of documents follow the academic standards. Secondly, experts in those topics have used the techniques described in the papers that we are discussing. Finally, some journals encourage the authors to share their databases and also the code they used.

The list of papers that we propose is as follows:

- Agriculture: [8], [15], [21].
- Crime: [11], [14].
- Environment: [2], [9], [12], [18].
- Migration: [7], [13], [17], [22].
- Social Issues: [1], [4], [19], [20].
- Unemployment: [5], [10].
- Land and Urban Economics: [3], [6], [16].

If a student wants to write a critical review on a paper that is not on the proposed list he or she must get approval to do it. To get the approval on the paper, the student must send an email to abera@illinois.edu and hrtdmrt2@illinois.edu with the title, journal and authors of the paper. The student looking for approval must send the request email by Thursday 23th of June, at 5:00 p.m.. By Friday 24th of June, at 5:00 p.m., all students should have sent an email to hrtdmrt2@illinois.edu and ca.molina11@uniandes.edu.co with the name of their selected paper from the list. More than one student can work on the same paper, but every student must work independently.

To prepare the critical review each student should do his or her best effort to read the paper and analyze its contribution. The final document can not be longer than 5 pages written in English, and it must reflect the student’s personal view. The students may use what they have learned in the computer lab to replicate some of the maps and figures in the paper and probably update and improve some of those. It would be also desired to specify how to improve the paper and, if possible, how to implement the necessary updates. We are also welcoming comments on the theory behind the methods implemented in the papers.
To submit the take home exam, students must send an email to ca.molina11@uniandes.edu.co, abera@illinois.edu and hrdmrt2@illinois.edu attaching the final report. Students should also attach a link to the data sources and the code used. All students musts use as subject of the email: Spatial Econometrics Final Exam. The email with the critical review should be delivered by Monday 4th of July, at 5:00 p.m..

Important dates to send emails:

Students looking for approval in a paper out of the list .................June 23th., by 5:00 p.m.
Students selected papers .................................................................June 24th., by 5:00 p.m.
Final exam document .................................................................July 4th., by 5:00 p.m.

References


