

## ***Dissertation Seminar***

### **Economics of Equity in Health**

*Academic Year:* **2017/2018**

*Semester:* **2nd**

*Instructor(s):* **Miguel Gouveia**

*Max. Number of Students:* **5**

#### *Seminar Description:*

This workshop is structured to help students to write their Master thesis in applied scientific projects in themes related to equity in Health. Equity in health studies whether health problems or access to health care is systematically different across different socio-economic status groups. The seminar adopts a microeconomic approach to assess quantitatively equity in health and health care by using individual level data. There will be a brief review of the literature and of the appropriate empirical methodologies.

Attendance policy: presence and participation in the seminar is mandatory

Prerequisites: Econometrics. Although not mandatory, this seminar may be more appealing to students that completed either Economic Analysis of Social Policies, or Health Economics or Microeconometrics.

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#### *Seminar Content:*

- The economics of equity in health and health care
- Measurement of equity: concentration curves and concentration indices
- The data : the National Health Survey of 2014 (Inquérito Nacional de Saúde de 2014)
- Applications to specific areas of health using STATA

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#### *Seminar Objectives:*

The objective of the seminar is to provide the students with the tools necessary to conduct research quantitative on equity using STATA and the National Health Survey data and to write master's thesis on the subject of health and healthcare equity.

Students are expected to choose a particular health problem as a dissertation topic and to examine that topic in depth. Very specific examples include chronic diseases such as diabetes, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, asthma, myocardial infarction, stroke, arthrosis, depression, renal disease. Other examples include injuries from accidents, etc..

The dissertation should be written in English and should have the following structure:

- Introduction: brief discussion of the research question, objectives and contributions of the thesis;
- Literature review: previous theoretical and empirical health economics findings on the health problem being analyzed;



- Description of data source and of the main variables used in the study
- Equity analysis and main results using regression analysis, concentration curves and indices;
- Main conclusions.

Writing a thesis proposal will require students to put serious effort and to work independently. On successful completion of this project, students should have improved the following generic skills:

- Oral communication including presentation skills
- Written communication
- Problem solving
- Statistical reasoning
- Application of theory to practice
- Interpretation and analysis
- Critical thinking
- Evaluation of data and other information
- Using computer software

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*Bibliography / Recommended Textbook(s) / Additional Readings:*

Bhattacharya, Hyde and Tu (2013), Health Economics, Palgrave Macmillan;

O'Donnell O, Van Doorslaer E, Wagstaff A, Lidelow M. Analysing health equity using household survey data: a guide to techniques and their implementation. Washington: World Bank; 2008

van Doorslaer E, Masseria C. et al (2004) Income-related inequality in the use of medical care in 21 OECD countries, OECD HEALTH WORKING PAPER NO. 14.

INE. Inquérito Nacional Saúde. 2014, Lisboa: INE; 2016. Disponível em [https://www.ine.pt/xportal/xmain?xpid=INE&xpgid=ine\\_publicacoes&PUBLICACOESpub\\_boui=263714091&PUBLICACOESmodo=2](https://www.ine.pt/xportal/xmain?xpid=INE&xpgid=ine_publicacoes&PUBLICACOESpub_boui=263714091&PUBLICACOESmodo=2)

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*Biography:*

Miguel Gouveia has a PhD in Economics from the University of Rochester. He is an Associate Professor at the Catolica Lisbon School of Business and Economics and works in the areas of Public Economics, Social Policy, and Health Economics.

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*Contact(s) and Office Hours:*

Office hours: after class or by appointment

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Internal 4904

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Schedule:

The seminar includes 3 sessions of 3 hours.

8/February 9:30-12:20	Lecture 1	Introduction to the main goals of the dissertation workshop. Economics of equity in health and health care
15/February 9:30-12:20	Lecture 2	Theory and Measurement: Tools to measure equity
1/March 9:30-12:20	Lecture 3	Practice: Working on the National Health Survey 2014 with STATA. Students' presentations of intended dissertation topics.

A series of office hours will follow the seminar (about 9 are expected to occur), to be scheduled according to students' needs. Students are encouraged to work collectively and to come to the office hours in groups.

Later in the semester there will be an informal session where each student will present the current state of his/her work using Power Point slides. The other students are expected to contribute with constructive criticism and suggestions.

At this workshop, students have to deliver the thesis in the first submission deadline. Illness or related motives are the only reasons to deliver in the late submission deadline. For this to happen, you need to deliver the first draft of the thesis a month before the deadline. The final draft needs to be delivered until 10 days before the deadline so that the student is allowed to submit the thesis on the defined deadline.

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Deadlines:

The full list of dates and deadlines can be consulted [here](#).