

Dissertation Seminar
GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT ECONOMICS

Academic Year: **2017/2018**

Semester: **2nd**

Instructor(s): **HUGO REIS**

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 Growth and Development Economics. It comprises a mix of group and individual mandatory sessions. Throughout the sessions, students will be asked to present their current work and to comment the work of others. **This is a full time workshop and no long distance students are allowed.** This entire workshop is held in English. Therefore, the thesis can only be written in English. Individual support is available by appointment. **A maximum of 3 hours total per individual is allowed.** Please budget your efforts accordingly. Only students that were approved at the Time Series Econometrics course or equivalent are allowed to attend this workshop. Students willing to attend this workshop are expected to have had at least 15 out of 20 in Time Series Econometrics course or equivalent. Notice that students with less than this threshold may struggle to finish this workshop. **This workshop does not warrant any minimum grade.**

Seminar Content:

Students will develop their skills around a particular topic and are expected to develop an innovative idea around that topic. Some of the skills are concerned with acquiring the knowledge of the specific area of interest through a state-of-the-art literature review, understanding the available tools, dealing with data and its associated limitations, performing statistical and economic analysis, relating conclusions to previous literature, and potentially making policy recommendations.

Students will develop a thesis around the following topics:

1. Growth Accounting and Regressions
 - a. Cross-Country analysis
 - b. Analysing, in particular, the role of Human Capital, Demographics and Migration.
 - c. Inputs and skills complementarities
2. Measuring productivity growth
3. Inequality (for example Wages, Income, Consumption)
4. Policy Evaluation in Human Capital topics

Seminar Objectives:

Writing a thesis proposal according to the aforementioned standards will require a serious effort on your behalf, and may take hard work to complete. On successful completion of this subject, students should have improved the following generic skills :

- Oral communication including presentation skills
- Written communication
- Problem solving and statistical reasoning
- Application of theory to practice
- Critical thinking
- Synthesis of data and other information
- Evaluation of data and other information
- Using computer software (econometric)
- Accessing data and other information from a range of sources

Bibliography / Recommended Textbook(s) / Additional Readings:

Scientific articles published in the specific area of expertise. In the area of Growth and Development Economics the top field journals are the Journal of Economic Growth and Journal of Development Economics. The other top field and generalist journals include, Quarterly Journal of Economics, Journal of Political Economy, American Economic Review, Econometrica, Review of Economic Studies, Journal of Econometrics, Journal of the European Economic Association, Journal of Monetary Economics, Journal of Human Resources, Journal of Labour Economics, Quantitative Economics, and International Economic Review.

Biography:

Hugo Reis is a Research Economist at the Economic Research Department (Structural Research Studies Unit) at the Portuguese Central Bank. He completed his PhD in Economics at University College London under the supervision of Pedro Carneiro and Orazio Attanasio. His main research interests are in Economics of Education, Program Evaluation, Labour Economics, Microeconometrics and Development Economics.

Contact(s) and Office Hours: hfreis@bportugal.pt

Individual support is available by appointment. **A maximum of 3 hours total per individual is allowed.** Please budget your efforts accordingly.

Schedule:

Grading will be based on the quality of the written document and final presentation. Session active participation is expected. **Students must be present in ALL sessions.** If you not qualify for this requisite you should not enroll in this workshop.

At this workshop, students are expected 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.

Due dates are non-negotiable. In signing up for this seminar, each participant commits to meet the proposed deadlines. There are no exceptions.

In each session all students will present their findings using PowerPoint slides. The following sessions are mandatory :

Session 1 : Presentation of Main Idea/Motivation/Objectives
February 5 (Monday) 18h30-20h00 Room TBA
Starting writing the individual research proposal

Session 2 : Research Group Progress Meeting: Main Idea/Data/Methodology
March 5 (Monday) 18h30-20h00 Room TBA
Starting writing the final draft

Session 3 : Research Group Progress Meeting: Summarize Previous Sections and Results
April 9 (Monday) 18h30-20h00 Room TBA
Thesis draft delivered

Session 4 : Final Presentation
May 7 (Monday) 18h30-20h00 Room TBA
Final Thesis delivered

Deadlines:

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