

# Reading Group in Applied Economics at UC3M

- Guidelines -

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## 1 Format

- We meet Tuesdays 12.15-13h in aula 14.0.8, until further notice.
- We alternate between reading group and early-stage research presentations; see next sections.

## 2 Reading Group Presentations

- Six days before the meeting (Wednesday evening), each student submits a paper of his/her choice to read until next week. This is done by filling out the Google form that I send out by email. Please email me if you want to be included in the mailing list: [jan.stuhler@uc3m.es](mailto:jan.stuhler@uc3m.es). 2nd year students do not need to submit proposals each week, but are very welcome to also present eventually.
- In contrast to Matthias' group, students can resubmit papers that did not yet get selected for presentation. However, please submit a new proposal at least every three or four weeks.
- A few days before the meeting I send out an invitation with the title and link of the selected paper. Attendants are invited to read the paper in advance to raise the level of discussion. To keep the workload low, this is however not a fixed requirement (try to read those papers that you find particularly interesting).
- Presenters should prepare a half-hour presentation. As in a normal seminar, assume that only some of the attendants have read the paper in advance. We might increase the format to two 30-minutes presentations per week at a later stage.
- In the meeting itself:
  - The reading group presentations are primarily for students to learn. Faculty should contribute to the discussion but not take over the discussion. This should be seminar where students speak, discuss, can make mistakes.
  - We do strict time keeping; after half an hour the presenter stops (or will be stopped). However, participants can stay in the room to discuss the topic further.
  - This being a lunch time seminar, participants can bring food (smellier foods in the backrow)

### 3 Early-Stage Research Presentations

- Both PhD students and faculty are invited to present early-stage research ideas in the meetings. From time to time I send out an invitation email to notify you about slot availability, or just send me an email if you are ready to present.
- Presentations should be about 30 minutes. Ideally you have a few slides prepared that I can send out to attendants in advance, but this is not a fixed requirement.
- 2nd-year students may wish to present ideas for their Master thesis; we can also organize a special session with multiple shorter presentations for this.
- In the meeting itself:
  - In the early-stage research presentations faculty should contribute as much as possible (in contrast to the reading group presentations).
  - We do strict time keeping; after half an hour, the presentation is over. Those who want to discuss the topic a bit further can stay in the room.
  - This being a lunch time seminar, participants can bring food.

### 4 Benefits for Students

(taken from Matthias Kredler's notes)

- Learn how to present well. (This is often easier with a paper that somebody else wrote - one is not as emotionally involved in the question/approach/results as with one's own paper.)
- Learn how to be a good seminar participant: Behave well, ask clear questions, discuss in an appropriate manner etc.
- Commit to a reading routine for your thesis
- The notes you make in the papers you've read will be an excellent summary of the literature for you later on. You will appreciate these summaries when writing the literature review for your thesis - you won't go back to the papers themselves at that point, which is a very hard thing to do.
- Learn about the literature, both in your own (sub-field) of interest and other fields.
- See what your fellow students are working on, spawn discussion, community building

### 5 Rules

(as in Matthias Kredler's reading group)

- no talking in the audience
- all questions go directly to the speaker (also when the speaker doesn't understand)
- timing rules are exactly kept – just like in real seminars.