

Economía Pública: Impuestos

Dario Tortarolo

Research Proposal

As seen in class, many of the best papers in public economics exploit a policy change (a so-called “Natural Experiment”) in order to obtain convincing causal effects of interest. The goal of this proposal is to find a Natural Experiment and propose an estimation methodology.

1. Find one reform or policy change that could be used to estimate a policy-relevant parameter in the literature (e.g., elasticities) for some group of interest in the population. Make sure the reform is large enough to be useable for compelling identification. Describe the reform you have picked.
2. Clearly state the research question(s) you will answer with the selected reform. Explain how your paper would contribute or fit into the related literature (you want to be the first to analyze this change!).
3. Describe the methodology you would use to estimate the effect of interest. In particular, make sure to be fully explicit about the assumptions you need to causally identify the parameters.
4. Describe the data you would need to carry out the analysis. Survey or administrative data, variables, realistic sample size, time period, panel or repeated cross section, etc. Search online to investigate whether such data exist and how they could be obtained for the research analysis you are proposing.
5. FOR FUTURE WORK (thesis?): If you find a really promising Natural Experiment, the next step is to try and get the data to carry out the research project.

Format: please work in groups of 2 people (most of the research today is done with coauthors, so it’s good to start coordinating early on). The proposal should have 5 pages maximum, font 12 pts. Feel free to include figures (e.g., a theoretical first stage, or aggregate times series that motivate your reform/analysis). Feel free to drop me an email if you spot a reform (or more) and are unsure about its potential.