Professor Robert A. Miller
University of Wisconsin Madison
Structural Econometrics

PRESENTATION

This presentation should be done in pairs, groups of three, or a foursome, and counts 20 percent towards your grade. Each person in your group will be awarded the same grade as the other members in the group.

Please form a group and nominate a group coordinator. Then by Monday September 25 the coordinator for each group should email my grader Jangsu Yoon jangsu.yoon@wisc.edu and myself, stating the membership of the group, along with a tentative list of between 3 and 5 papers, any one of which you are prepared to present to the class.

You should not plan to present a paper that has already been presented in some other course. It should be a published paper from a top five journal (or if you wish to select from outside that category please check with me), not coauthored by me, that addresses an empirical question by estimating a structural econometric model. You might want to check the course reading list for candidate papers.

Shortly after Monday 25 your group should arrange a short meeting with me in which the group comes prepared to briefly discuss the 5 candidate papers, from which you will make your final choice. In the event of two or more groups wanting to present the same paper, the first group to send the email to Jangsu and myself with their list has top priority.

Prepare a set of slides on beamer (no more than about 15), or some other math friendly format for 30 minute presentation (including 10 minutes for questions and general discussion), to teach the class about the contribution of the paper, drilling the points you want us to understand.

About a week before the presentation the group coordinator should send me a draft complete set of slides and arrange a 30 minute meeting between me and all the group members, to review the slides together for my feedback and your revision.

Each person in your group should contribute equally to the presentation, but the overall presentation should be unified, not disjointed. Have a hard copy of the paper at hand, so that if necessary you can highlight pages of the manuscript on the projector. Before the day of your presentation become thoroughly familiar with how the projector works (and I recommend practicing the previous weekend even if your slides aren't perfect).

Your slide presentation should sequentially answer the following questions:

1. What are the stylized facts, patterns in the data, received wisdom, and other empirical regularities that motivate the model?

2. What had been known about the empirical regularities, and previous attempts to understand them with statistical and economic models, before the work was undertaken?

3. With reference to the first question, how is the model motivated by the empirical regularities?

4. Explain the model setup, and how well it conforms to the institutional detail and other received knowledge about the economic environment being analyzed.

5. What features of the equilibrium or optimization conditions are used in the empirical work; are additional assumptions made about the stochastic process generating the data?

6. What are the primitives of the model, and how they (set) identified?

7. Show how closely the estimator is related to the identifying conditions. Is the estimator consistent, and if so what is its rate of convergence and its asymptotic distributional properties?

8. What new insights do the empirical results bring to bear on the empirical regularities that motivated the model?

9. Summarize by showing how this work contributes to the existing literature.