Empirical tools to investigate preferences and economic behavior for the management of natural resources: stated preference methods and experimental economics

Description and main topics

The objective of the training is to offer young scholars an overview of the current empirical methods aimed at understanding preferences and economic behaviour towards natural resources: how to design, implement and analyse a choice experiment or more broadly an economic experiment to anticipate individual and collective behaviours. The training is mainly methodological in nature. Participants will be exposed to a large set of tools to help them decide upon the best tools/methods to be used to answer their current research questions.

Guided by best practice recommendations for stated preference research as promulgated by Johnstone et al (2017), the one-week intensive course will use a judicious blend of theory, econometric methods and case study applications to introduce participants to the design, implementation and statistical analysis of contingent valuation and choice experiments data, with a focussed application to non-market valuation in environmental economics.

Target audience

The course will be designed for Post-graduate students and young professionals in Agricultural, Natural Resources or Environmental Economics. PhD students are particularly encouraged to apply to this training.

Pre-requisites

Knowledge in (fairly) advanced level microeconomics and basic econometrics is assumed. Participants will use R and Stata during lab exercises. Instructions on how to install R and materials about basic operations will be sent before the beginning of the training.

Lecturers

Prof. Eric Mungatana, CEEPA, Department of Agricultural Economics, University of Pretoria

Prof. Thomas Lundhede, Department of Food and Resource Economics, University of Copenhagen

Prof. Stefano Farolfi, French Agricultural Research Centre for International Development (CIRAD), G-EAU, France

Dr. Damien Jourdain, CIRAD / CEEPA / GovInn, University of Pretoria

Organization of the training

The training will take place from 07 to 10 May 2018 (four days). Each day will consist of 6 to 7 hours alternating lectures and practical exercises with real case studies proposed by the lecturers.

Outline of the program

The training will be organized into five sessions (two of which are mainly introduction and debrief/evaluation by students). The training will span over a period of four days.

Topic	Sub-topic	Time (hour)
Welcome session		1.0
General Introduction		2.5
Stated (individual) preferences	Contingent valuation	3.0
	Choice Experiments	12.25
Experimental Economics		5.25
Debrief / Evaluation		1.0
TOTAL		25.0

Responsible Center

The Centre for Environmental Economics and Policy in Africa (CEEPA), Department of Agricultural Economics

Other information

CEEPA reserves the right to cancel the course if there are not more than 5 students who have applied to the course. There is no tuition fee. The participant is responsible for any housing and travel cost.

Application to the training

If you are interested in participating, please send a one paragraph motivation letter to yvonne.samuels@up.ac.za with a copy to eric.mungatana@up.ac.za

Module	Half-day	Unit	Duration (hr)
Welcome	1	Introduction message	0.3
	1	Students presentation	0.5
	1	Lecturers presentation	0.3
			1
General Introduction	1	Elicit preferences: why and what for?	0.5
	1	Elicit preferences: best practices	0.8
	1	Welfare Economics and Non-market valuation	0.8
	1	Stated choices and Random Utility	0.5
			2.5
Contingent Valuation (CV)	2	Theory / Possible Designs / Analysis	0.5
	2	Example 1 and Analysis	0.8
	2	Example 2 and Analysis	0.8
	2	Students brainstorming	0.5
	2	Group restitutions	0.5
			3
Choice Experiments (CE)	3	Building Blocks	0.5
	3	Group Work (Attributes / Levels)	0.3
	3	Experimental Design: an introduction	0.8
	3	Experimental Design (Lab)	0.5
	3	Case study (description)	0.8
	3	Case Study (Lab --> data coding)	0.5
	4	Analysis: conditional logit	0.8
	4	Analysis: conditional logit (Lab)	0.8
	4	Analysis: Mixed Logit	0.8
	4	Analysis: Mixed Logit (Lab)	0.8
	5	Analysis: Latent class	0.8
	5	Analysis: Latent class (Lab)	0.5
	5	Advand Topics: ANA	0.5
	5	Advand Topics: Hybrid Choi Models	0.5
	5	Extensions (Best-worst scaling)	0.8
	6	Extensions (Best-worst scaling) (Lab)	0.5
	6	Stated Choices: Some specificities for less-developed countries?	1.0
	6	Student brainstorming	0.8
	6	Group discussion	0.8
			12.3
Experimental Economics (EE)	7	EE: why and what for	0.3
	7	EE: Types of economic experiments	0.2
	7	EE: Methodology in the field and in the lab	1.3
	7	EE: Presentation and Discussion of a case study	1.0
	8	EE: Practical Work	2.5
			5.3
Student Debrief	8	Student Debrief & Evaluation	1.0
			1.0
		Overall total	**25.0**