

Module	Content	Date	Location (not booked yet)
Lecture 1: Causal Inference and Its Fundamental Problems	This lecture introduces the logic of causal inference in Empirical Legal Studies, including counterfactual reasoning, the potential outcomes framework, and experimental ideal. The lecture examines key threats to causal inference – such as confounding, reverse causality, post-treatment bias, interference, measurement error —and discuss how experimental designs help address them.	27 Oct (Tue) 11.00-12.45	
Lecture 2: Causal Inference with Qualitative Methods	This lecture shows how qualitative designs support causal inference, focusing on comparative methods (MSSD and MDSD), case selection, and process-tracing as a strategy for identifying causal mechanisms and sequences.	3 Nov (Tue) 11.00-12.45	
Lecture 3: Panel Data Methods-I: Fixed Effect and Random Effect Models	This lecture introduces panel data analysis for studying change over time within units such as countries, courts, or individuals. The students learn fixed-effects and random-effects models, their assumptions and conditions under which each approach is appropriate.	10 Nov (Tue) 11.00-12.45	
Lecture 4: Panel Data Methods II: Difference-in-Differences	This lecture introduces Difference-in-Differences (DiD) as a method for estimating causal effects from observational data by comparing changes over time between treated and control groups. Students learn the key assumptions as well as how violations of these assumptions can bias results.	17 Nov (Tue) 11.00-12.45	
Lecture 5: Panel Data Methods III: Synthetic Controls	This lecture introduces the synthetic control method (SCM) as an approach to estimating causal effects in comparative case studies. Students learn how SCM constructs a “synthetic” version of a treated unit, along with the intuition, assumptions, data requirements, and interpretation of results.	1 Dec (Tue) 1 1.00-12.45	
Lecture 6: Regression Discontinuity Designs	This lecture introduces Regression Discontinuity Designs (RDD) as a method for causal inference when treatment assignment is determined by a cutoff or threshold. Students learn how RDD uses local comparisons around the cutoff to estimate causal effects, the distinction between sharp and fuzzy designs, and the key assumptions underlying the method.	8 Dec (Tue) 11.00-12.45	
Lecture 7: Instrumental Variables Designs	This lecture introduces instrumental variable (IV) methods for identifying causal effects when treatment is endogenous or correlated with unobserved factors. Students learn the key assumptions of IV analysis, the logic of two-stage least squares (2SLS) and how to interpret IV estimates and assess instrument validity.	15 Dec (Tue) 11.00-12.45	