

Seminar

Complementary methods for causal inference in sociology: studying trust and embeddedness

VINCENT BUSKENS (Utrecht University)

Discussant

DAVIDE BARRERA (University of Turin)

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Room 3D233

Department of Cultures, Politics and Society

University of Turin

Campus Luigi Einaudi

Via Lungo Dora Siena, 100—Turin

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Establishing causal relations in sociological research is often not that straightforward. Surveys are often non longitudinal and provide limited control on variations in variables, which makes establishing causality often difficult. Laboratory experiments can establish causal relations in a very restricted and artificial set-up, which often poses questions on external validity. Vignette experiments combine the advantages of experimental variation with the more real-life description of choice situations, but have their own limitations. In this talk, I am planning to discuss evidence on the question how social embeddedness affects trust based on a variation of empirical designs and I will in particular focus on two different vignette experiments that test a set of hypotheses.

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