
“Causal Inference and Evidence-based Policy” course

The Latin American and Caribbean Environmental Economics Program (LACEEP) is organizing a training course on ***“Causal Inference and Evidence-based Policy”*** to be carried out at CATIE’s headquarters in Turrialba, Costa Rica from September 20-24, 2016.

The course is aimed at junior researchers who are citizens of any country in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) region. Applicants should have a thorough technical knowledge and command of English. Class sessions will combine lectures, discussion, class exercises, presentations, and interactive group work.

Course instructors:

- ◀ **Rodrigo Arriagada** is Assistant Professor in the Department of Agricultural Economics at the Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile in Santiago, Chile. Dr. Arriagada is also an associated research fellow for Environment for Development (EfD) initiative in Central America and ecoSERVICES Group at Arizona State University. His fields of specialization are environmental economics, program evaluation econometrics, applied microeconomics and development economics. Dr. Arriagada’s current research interests focus on environmental economics and policy, the use of experimental and quasi-experimental program evaluation methods on conservation interventions, deforestation and land use, issues at the intersection of economic development and environmental protection. He received his Ph.D. from North Carolina State University in 2008 and worked as a Post-Doctoral fellow at the ecoSERVICES Reserch Group at Arizona State University. His dissertation titled “Private provision of public goods: applying matching methods to evaluate payments for ecosystem services in Costa Rica”. His research has been published in AMBIO, Journal of Sustainable Forestry, Agricultural Economics and Land Economics.

Contents:

1. Introduction to impact evaluation
2. Causal states, potential outcomes, identification and treatment effects
3. Estimating causal effects by conditioning: matching
4. Estimating causal effects by conditioning: regression
5. Instrumental variable estimators of causal effects and regression discontinuity designs
6. Explanation and identification of causal effects by mechanisms

Application:

LACEEP will offer a grant covering all expenses for the participants: course fee, materials, air ticket (maximum US\$1000 for air ticket), airport taxes, terrestrial transportation within Costa Rica, lodging and meals during the days of the event for a maximum of 15 students.

To register for the course, please complete and send the attached application form (including an abstract of a research topic that you would be interested in developing – no more than 500 words), and maximum two-page CV to: laceep@catie.ac.cr before **August 15, 2016**. The subject should be: Application to LACEEP Course.

Pre-selected applicants can be scheduled an appointment via Skype. All applicants will receive an email before August 30, 2016, whether or not they have been accepted to the course.