

## Lunch PhD Seminars

University of Tor Vergata - PhD in Econometrics and Empirical Economics  
- PhD in Economics and Finance

*Fall 2013*

Dear PhD student,

Below is a set of guidelines that should help you organize your presentation at the PhD lunch seminar. Please notice that attending the seminar is compulsory (not optional), and we expect you to actively participate (sitting passively is definitely not what we expect from a PhD student).

You are not required to present a complete paper, but consistent progress in your PhD thesis. The quality of your presentation will be taken into account by the Faculty Board when deciding your admission to the following year and continuation of your scholarship. A very bad presentation, or the lack of progress in your PhD thesis, will carry a negative weight. If coupled with other indicators of underperformance, this may lead to exclusion from the PhD program. On the other hand, you should take advantage of the lunch seminar to explicitly ask for advice on unresolved issues, and take stock of the comments and criticisms that you receive during the presentation. For all these reasons, we strongly encourage you to take the PhD lunch seminars very seriously and follow the suggestions below.

**Notice that according to the PhD rules, you are not allowed to cancel your seminar unless very serious reasons previously discussed with your PhD supervisor and the PhD coordinator. However, the cancellation of 2 consecutive seminars will automatically determine your exclusion from the PhD program.**

The seminars are held on Tuesday at 1:05pm-2:00pm. Participants should bring their own food/beverage.

### Discussing your work

1. Prepare a handout that helps organize your presentation. The handout (max 25 slides, excluding the title page) should contain:
  - a. An overview of your research question and the key idea of your paper (max 4 slides).
  - b. A review of the literature that summarizes how what you do relates to existing work by others and emphasizes the novelty and relevance of your contribution (max 4 slides).
  - c. An informative description of your data (max 4 slides).
  - d. A careful description of your economic/econometric model (max 5 slides).
  - e. Your main results (max 5 slides).
  - f. Concluding remarks that summarize your key results and provide a clear indication of the direction of future research (max 3 slides).

**Do not insert more than two charts/graphs/figures/tables in each slide. Do not use fonts that are too small!!!**

2. Motivate your research idea by describing the basic research question that you address.

- a. Begin with a 2-minute summary.
  - b. List the main points in the handout and/or on the board.
3. Review previous work in the literature on the topic.
- a. Provide a (brief) literature review following your opening summary.
  - b. What are the research strategies (or the models) used by others and the main findings in the literature?
4. Describe your approach to this research question:
- a. What is your main contribution to the existing literature and why is it important? What is the main results that drive the research idea?
  - b. What is the relevant theoretical background?
  - c. In case your work is applied, where do your data come from? What are the relation with your data and other research data on the same topic?
  - d. What is your empirical framework? Provide a clear statement of the equations that you are estimating, what the parameters of interest are, and why you think the estimates of these parameters may shed some light on the issues that you are interested in.
  - e. In case you present a theoretical model, what are the main assumptions and the main equations? Please do not present all the equations you might have in your paper. Emphasize intuition rather than formal aspects.
5. Manage the presentation
- a. Keep the presentation (and the forthcoming questions you will for sure receive) in the 50 minutes of the seminar schedule;
  - b. Try to keep the discussion focused on the issues you think are important (the research question);
  - c. Highlight the questions or problems you need help with;
  - d. Do not try to present all what you have produced in several months of work, only what is relevant (the contribution to the existing literature, the model, the data and the basic results that can add a small brick in the field);
  - e. Carefully review your presentation notes in advance, with an eye to determining the appropriate amount of material given the time allotted (45-50 minutes plus another 10-15 extra minutes for general discussion).

Franco Peracchi  
Daniela Vuri  
Rocco Ciciretti