

Schedule of Events

All times are Central Daylight Time (CDT)

Saturday, April 9, 2022

8:00 AM Harper 140	Welcome breakfast with our sponsor Cornerstone Research.
9:00 AM	Prompt will be released to all teams. Each team will be assigned to a small classroom to work on the prompt.
12:00 PM	Sign-up sheet for the feedback session will be sent via email. Teams can sign up for the feedback session voluntarily.
4:40 PM	Check in via email to confirm attending the feedback session.
5:00 PM – 7:00 PM Stuart 101	Teams will have 10 - 15 minutes to meet with the lecturer judges to receive feedback and make edits. Pizza will also be served.
9:00 PM	An email with submission instructions will be sent out at 9PM.
10:00 PM	Final papers are due.

Sunday, April 10, 2022

9:00 AM – 10:00 AM

Harper 140

Breakfast and networking event with our sponsor the Brattle Group.

10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Harper 140

Finalist teams will present in front of judges.

12:00-12:30 PM

Harper 140

Judges will deliberate on final rankings and prizes are awarded.

Instructions for Teams

The Econometric Game booked hotel rooms in Sophie Hyde Park (1411 E 53rd St, Chicago, IL 60615) for each registered Non-UChicago participant. Please check in after 3PM Friday 4/8 and check out by 12PM Sunday 4/10. Please contact Michael (mcaosun@uchicago.edu) if you have any questions regarding the hotel arrangements.

The competition will start at 8AM Saturday 4/9 at Harper Memorial Library room 140 (1116 E 59th St, Chicago, IL 60637), which is about a 20 minutes walk from the hotel. You can also choose to take [buses 171 or 172](#), which can be paid using cash/Ventra Card/contactless bank cards. We will provide breakfast on both Saturday and Sunday morning, sponsored by Cornerstone Research and the Brattle Group, respectively. Unfortunately, we will not be able to provide lunch and dinner during the Saturday competition. Available restaurants near the competition location include Pret a Manger, Plein Air Cafe, and Medici on 57th. You can also use Uber Eats or other delivery apps. There is a Target within a 2 minutes walk to the hotel, and you can buy snacks beforehand.

The prompt for the game will be distributed at 9:00am CST on Saturday, April 9. Teams will be responsible for interpreting the prompt appropriately and using personal computers with software of their choice (we recommend R or STATA) to analyze the dataset(s) relevant to their question of interest. Collaborating with anyone outside of the team is prohibited. Each team will be assigned to a classroom after the prompts are distributed, but there will be volunteers staying in Harper 140 throughout the game. Please stay tuned for any communications through emails.

Contact Michael (mcaosun@uchicago.edu) or Yunshu (yunshu@uchicago.edu) if you have any questions during the game. They will also be nearby in person.

Deliverable 1 (Saturday 5:00 pm CDT)

Each team will give a 5-10 minute presentation of their research idea to a pair of UChicago Economics lecturers who will then give feedback on the research idea. The total time for presentation and feedback may not exceed 15 minutes.

Attending the feedback session is voluntary. Whether entering the final round or not is determined by your paper (deliverable 2). If you attend the feedback session, we will make sure one of the two judges that review your paper on Saturday night have seen your presentation.

Deliverable 2 (Saturday 10:00 pm CDT)

Each team will produce a research paper. They will receive an email by 9:00 pm CDT containing instructions for the procedure for paper submission. Papers should be submitted no later than 10:00 pm CDT. This deadline is firm, and papers submitted after this time will not be judged, so prudent teams should consider 9:55 pm CDT as their deadline. Furthermore, **submissions not adhering to the following rules will also not be sent to judges.**

- The paper must be relevant to the prompt
- All tables and figures must be in an appendix section
- The paper should have a cover sheet with the random number assigned to the team by email
- The text of the paper may be no longer than 5 pages and should include the following:
 - A brief introduction
 - A brief theoretical model (if applicable, this is not the focus of the competition)
 - An empirical methods section
 - A discussion of results
 - A conclusion
- The total length of the paper must not exceed 10 pages, excluding cover sheet and references section, but including figures
 - So a paper may have 4 pages of text and a 6 page appendix of tables and figures for example
- A good paper will have the bulk of its text allocated to the discussion of results section
- Teams will be judged on the following criteria (in order of descending importance)
 - Relevant and economically interesting answer to the prompt
 - Is the research question clearly stated?
 - Is it well motivated?
 - To the extent possible, is it well positioned within the literature?
 - Robust and thoughtful econometric technique
 - Is a (parsimonious) formal model written down?
 - Is the model explained? Is it clear what the coefficients of interest are?
 - Are the identification assumptions clearly stated?
 - Are results presented in clear tables with alternate specifications?
 - Does the paper acknowledge the potential for alternative explanations that fit the same fact pattern?
 - How do the participants check for robustness?
 - Clear and concise writing
- **The paper must not include any information which would identify the team**
 - The judging process is meant to be anonymous
 - Each team will have their paper judged by two lecturers, one of whom gave feedback on their presentation and the other who was not in the room. The lecturer who gave feedback may remember the team, but will not have any way of knowing whether they did or did not see the team present earlier in the day.
 - Each lecturer will be randomly assigned half of the papers, and will rank the papers that they read relative to one another
 - Lecturers make their recommendations independently

Deliverable 3 (Sunday 10:00 am)

Teams will be notified by an email at 8:00 am whether or not they are finalists (the finalist selection process is detailed below in the instructions for lecturers). Finalist teams will be expected to give a 15 minute presentation of their findings to our panel of judges at 10:00 am. This will be followed by questions from the judges which should not last longer than 20 minutes after the team began its presentation. That is to say a 10 minute presentation would allow for 10 minutes of questions. Judges will receive a digital copy of the paper submitted the night before to consider in their evaluation of each paper.

Instructions for Lecturers

Task 1 (Saturday 5:00 pm - 7:00 pm)

- Providing feedback to the teams about their research plan
- Teams will be divided evenly between two rooms and in each room there will be two lecturers.
- A member of Oeconomica will be present in the room to ensure that each team spends no more than 5 minutes presenting their research idea and that the feedback from the judges does not exceed 15 minutes from when the presentation began.
 - This means that a team which presents their idea in 3 minutes will be given up to 12 minutes of feedback, while one that uses their entire 5 minutes may only be given 10 minutes of feedback.
- Rules regarding appropriate and inappropriate feedback
 - Lecturers should be impartial and fair to all teams, some teams will have quite good presentations and others will be evidently lacking, but all should be afforded attention and valuable feedback
 - Lecturers may not suggest changes to the research topic or “more interesting” directions to take the research. There is simply not enough time in the competition to change the research at this point, and it provides an unfair advantage to teams who write a more interesting paper based on a lecturer's topic suggestion
 - Lecturers should suggest weaknesses in the empirical techniques used by teams (are their standard errors robust, do they have endogeneity problems to address, are they including appropriate controls, etc.)
 - Lecturers should suggest alternate explanations driving results which successful papers would disprove in a section on robustness checks

Task 2 (At some point between 10:00 pm Saturday and 7:50 am on Sunday)

- Selecting finalist teams
- Half of the papers in the competition will be allocated to each lecturer by a random process (explicitly enumerated above). These papers will be anonymized and distributed by email shortly after 10:00pm on Saturday. Each team's paper will be sent to two lecturers, one of whom saw their topic pitch and the other who did not.
- Lecturers shall read the papers (each of which will have no more than 5 pages of text and will be no more than 10 pages in length, including the appendix with tables and figures, but excluding bibliographic references and the cover sheet)
- Teams should be judged on the following criteria (in order of descending importance)
 - Relevant and economically interesting answer to the prompt
 - Is the research question clearly stated?
 - Is it well motivated?
 - To the extent possible, is it well positioned within the literature?

- Robust and thoughtful econometric technique
 - Is a (parsimonious) formal model written down?
 - Is the model explained? Is it clear what the coefficients of interest are?
 - Are the identification assumptions clearly stated?
 - Are results presented in clear tables with alternate specifications?
 - Does the paper acknowledge the potential for alternative explanations that fit the same fact pattern?
 - How do the participants check for robustness?
- Clear and concise writing
- Each lecturer will independently rank the papers in their set of papers with 1 being the best and higher numbers being worse.
- Lecturers should email Michael (mcaosun@uchicago.edu) with the random numbers corresponding to their finalist ranking by no later than 7:50am on Sunday.
- Michael and Yunshu will sum the rankings of the two lecturers who read each paper and the teams with the lowest total score will advance.

Instructions for Judges

Judges will hear presentations at 10:00 am from the finalist teams in the metrics game. Judges should ask questions seminar-style throughout the presentations (each of the finalists will be capped at 20 minutes including all questions and answers).

Teams should be judged on the following criteria (in order of descending importance)

- Relevant and economically interesting answer to the prompt
 - Is the research question clearly stated?
 - Is it well motivated?
 - To the extent possible, is it well positioned within the literature?
- Robust and thoughtful econometric technique
 - Is a (parsimonious) formal model written down?
 - Is the model explained? Is it clear what the coefficients of interest are?
 - Are the identification assumptions clearly stated?
 - Are results presented in clear tables with alternate specifications?
 - Does the paper acknowledge the potential for alternative explanations that fit the same fact pattern?
 - How do the participants check for robustness?
- Clear and concise writing

After all teams have presented, judges shall convene in private and select a 1st place, 2nd place, and 3rd place team. They should then report their selections to the metrics game coordinator and attend the announcement of the winners to congratulate those teams.

Instructions for Student Game Coordinators

These easily generalize between the games and are thus not repeated.

Task 1: Prompt Distribution

- Meet at 8:30am for a rundown of the day's events
- Take attendance of arriving teams and contact missing teams
- Collect a primary contact email for each team and create a spreadsheet for tracking attendance and progress in the competition
- Post the prompt to the website at 9AM.

Task 2: Lecturer support

- Send out check in at 4:30pm
- Welcome and orient lecturers at 4:45
- At 5:00 pm, send teams into breakout rooms for judging.
- Ensure that there is a member of Oeconomica in both breakout rooms
- This member of Oeconomica will be responsible for keeping time:
 - No more than 5 min for the team presentation
 - No more than 15 min for each team total
 - A team who presents for 3 minutes therefore has 12 minutes remaining to receive feedback from the judges
- This member will be responsible for resolving any rule clarifications that are required. If rules are ambiguous, Azize will be the final arbiter as President of Oeconomica
- Take note of which teams present to create an updated list of teams still in the competition.
- **Distribute an email to the Oeconomica listhost reminding members of the final presentations on Sunday**

Task 4: Paper anonymization and distribution

- Create a crosswalk assigning teams a random number (between 1 and N where N is the total number of teams still in the competition) to anonymously identify them **by 9:00 pm** and give them instructions for emailing their final papers to you
 - Random number should be between 1 and N where N is the number of teams who made it to the presentation stage of the competition
 - In this email, remind teams to omit identifying information from their paper
- Allocate papers to judges.
- This allocation mechanism ensures each paper is read by two judges, each judge reads no more than half the papers, and each team is guaranteed one judge who saw their topic pitch and one judge who did not.
- Record in the spreadsheet which teams have turned in papers at 10:00pm. Follow up with teams who have not to determine if they are dropping out of the competition. Papers

submitted after 10:00 pm will not be reviewed, this rule is firm, so wise teams will submit their paper by 9:55 pm.

- Confirm with each team that their paper was received
- Confirm that papers are anonymous and contain only the identifying number and no further information
- Confirm paper submissions are in compliance with the above rules distributed to teams
- Compile the papers and code to be sent to each judge in a zip file and email it to them

Task 5: Finalist notification

- Each lecturer will reply with ranked ordering of papers from the selection they read
- This will result in 4 finalists in the competition
- Based on emails from lecturers, use crosswalk created during paper anonymization to determine which teams were selected as finalists. To do this, sum the two rankings assigned each paper and the four papers with the lowest rankings advance. In the event of a tie, note that we aim to place the threshold so that 3-5 teams enter the final round.
- Email all finalist teams to notify them (as close to 8:00 am as possible) and to remind them about the networking breakfast at 9:00am and the presentation they will be giving at 10:00 am
- Email all non-finalist teams to inform them and invite them to the networking breakfast and to watch the presentations at 10:00 am

Task 6: Judge support

- Arrive early on the morning of the final presentations to greet the food and ensure the building is unlocked
- **Send digital copies of finalist papers and the prompt to judges as well as judging instructions**
 - Replace the random number cover sheet with a cover sheet for each paper that identifies authors and schools writing each paper
- Welcome judges and sponsors from Cornerstone and Brattle (and follow up with judges who are running late)
- Make small talk with sponsors and engage members of Oeconomica in this small talk
 - Ensure that board members meet the sponsors so that we can engage them in future metrics games
- Keep time during presentations
 - No more than 20 min for the team presentation
 - No more than 30 min for each team total
 - A team who presents for 15 minutes therefore has 15 minutes remaining to receive feedback from the judges
- Distribute judging instructions to Judges

Task 7: Prize distribution

- Set a time for judges to return with their selections and notify teams of this time

- Once teams have reconvened, announce 3rd, then 2nd, then 1st place teams and distribute prizes accordingly: (undetermined)
 - 3rd place team gets signed freakonomics for each member
 - 2nd place team gets signed freakonomics and earbuds for each member
 - 1st place team gets signed freakonomics and ipad for each member
- Thank teams and judges