

# Research Seminar

**2017-2018 Academic Year**  
**Master of Research in Economics, Finance and Management**

## 1. Description of the subject

- Research Seminar
  - Total credits: 10 ECTS
  - Type of subject: Compulsory
  - Department of Economics and Business
  - Coordinator: Robin Hogarth
  - Teaching team:  
G. Le Mens/L. Gonzalez/C. Brownlees/L.Pascali/C.Fons-Rosen/L.Alaoui
- Code: 31587  
Workload: 250 hours  
Term: 1st

Updated: 10/07/2017

## 2. Teaching guide

### ◉ Introduction

In your academic studies, most of you have been consuming research but now face the challenge of producing it. The purpose of this course is to help you in the jump from the consumption to the production of research.

We will devote the first session of the course to talk about methodology. In so doing we will reflect on the views of some reputed academic economists that have devoted time and effort in compiling their advice to economics graduate students. In the second session, we will devote time to the important inputs of communication: writing, figures and tables, and oral presentations.

You will be exposed to six faculty members (in addition to Hogarth). One of these (Gaël Le Mens) will teach a module on methodology spread across the term. Five faculty members will present their own research in two sessions. The collection of presentations will be diverse in topics and methodology. The overall course will be coordinated by Robin Hogarth.

Finally, there will be one session to wrap up the course.

### ◉ Teaching methodology

For his module, Gaël Le Mens will provide specific readings and require students to craft the design of a small research study (more details later).

Each of the other professors will select the two main papers related to the research they will present. You will have to read these carefully in advance and write a (at most) two-page commentary on each of the two papers. The commentary should highlight: (1) the ideas (substantive and/or methodological) that you find interesting and (2) the problems/advantages you see in the adopted methodology. These commentaries will be shared with the presenters and should not simply summarize the papers. They have to be handed in before the first presentation of each professor.

The papers for each professor as well as those cited below will be available on the BGSE intranet.

### ◉ Contents

References for the preview session (September 26)

Required:

- Friedman, M. (1953), "Essays in Positive Economics. Part I - The Methodology of Positive Economics," University of Chicago Press, pp. 3-43.

- Goldin C. and L. Katz, "The Ten Most Important Rules of Writing Your Job Market Paper," mimeo.

Recommended:

- Hamermesh, D.S. (1992), "The Young Economist's Guide to Professional Etiquette," *Journal of Economic Perspectives*, 6(1):169-179.
- Hamermesh, D.S. (1993), "Professional Etiquette for the Mature Economist," *American Economic Review P&P*, 83(2):34-38.
- McClosky, D. (1985), "Economical Writing," *Economic Inquiry*, 23(2):187-222.
- Rubinstein, A. "8 Q&A: Experienced advice for "lost" graduate students in Economics," mimeo.
- Thomson, W. (1999), "The Young Person's Guide to Writing Economic Theory," *Journal of Economic Literature* March: 157-183.

### Grading system

The evaluation of the course will be based on the Le Mens project, all the commentaries, and your participation in the research presentations and discussions.

## 3. Instructors for course

(Tuesdays and Thursdays: 15:00 to 17:00)

Week # 1	26-Sep	Preview – R. Hogarth
	28-Sep	Methods – R. Hogarth
Week # 2	3-Oct	Gaël Le Mens
	5-Oct	Christian Brownlees
Week # 3	10-Oct	Gaël Le Mens
	12-Oct	<i>Holiday</i>
Week # 4	17-Oct	Gaël Le Mens
	19-Oct	Christian Brownlees
Week # 5	24-Oct	Libertad Gonzalez
	26-Oct	Libertad Gonzalez
Week # 6	31-Oct	Gaël Le Mens
	2-Nov	Luigi Pascali
Week # 7	7-Nov	Luigi Pascali
	9-Nov	Christian Fons-Rosen
Week # 8	14-Nov	Christian Fons-Rosen
	16-Nov	Larbi Alaoui
Week # 9	21-Nov	Gaël Le Mens
	23-Nov	Larbi Alaoui
Week # 10	28-Nov	Gaël Le Mens
	30-Nov	Conclusion – R. Hogarth