Social Sciences' Research
Methods Centre (SSRMC)

Cambridge Replication Workshop 2013

Weekly Assignments

Between week 7 and week 8 there is a four week break to give students time to finish replications.

Week 1: Picking a paper

Either pick a paper from my suggestions (Dropbox folder "Papers to Replicate"), or find up to three papers yourself. Create a folder in the dropbox with your name and upload your suggestions before class. Please also bring printed versions to class. Guidelines on how to pick a paper are in the handout for week 1.

Week 2: Start working with your replication paper

In your own dropbox folder...

1. Create a word document called "yourname_tables", into which you will copy screenshots of all tables and figures of your replication paper.

2. Create a word document named "yourname_models" in which you make a table or bullet points that include:

    - Models run in the paper (including those in footnotes)
    - Variables and their measurement (including logs etc)
    - ULR to the dataset (include the data set in your dropbox folder)
    - URL to the .do or Rcode or SPSS code of the author

3. Create and upload to dropbox an Rscript called "yourname_descriptive.R". In that Rscript, show how you load your dataset into R; do descriptive statistics (mean, histograms, scatterplots)

We will work with you on these documents during class.

Reading:
Øien, Beate. 2011. "Revisiting Foreign Direct Investment and Collective Labor Rights: Replicating "the positive case" of economic globalization", Master Thesis at the Norwegian University of Science and Technology, http://ntnu.diva-portal.org/smash/record.jsf?pid=diva2:443011

Week 3: Getting your replication paper in shape

In your own dropbox folder...

1. Create a word document called "yourname_tables_progress" in which you mark which tables and figures you were able to replicate so far.

2. Create a word document named "yourname_models_progress" in which you mark which models you have already run.

3. Create and upload to dropbox an Rscript called "yourname_replication.R". In that Rscript, do the replication and comment clearly (!!!) which figures and tables you are replicating in each step.

4. Make a note for yourself where you had problems and errors to bring that to class.

5. Prepare a 5 minute **presentation** of your replication. Topic, Research Question, Models, and what's your status. This will help us match you into pairs to replicate each other's replication.

Reading:
Peterson, Richard R. , A Re-Evaluation of the Economic Consequences of Divorce. Author(s):. Source: American Sociological Review, Vol. 61, No. 3 (Jun., 1996).
http://www.soc.washington.edu/users/brines/petersen.pdf

Week 4: Getting your replication ready to hand it over to your replication partner

In your own dropbox folder...

1. Create a folder named replication_partner

2. Upload your original paper, Rscript with your concrete comments, a short report, and questions you have for your replication partner (see guidelines from handout week 3)

3. Send an email to your replication partner giving them info about this folder

Some guidelines:

How to prepare your materials so that your replication partner can work with them:

- Keep it concise. The cross-check should not take more than 3-4 hours.
- Have you provided a list of variable names and explanation?
- Have you provided the updated data set (in which you have already done the recoding)?
- Have you commented your Rcode clearly (see week 2 guidelines)? The TAs will have a look during the practical part
- Have you finished tables and figures?
- Have you written a short results report, 500 words max.?

- You can create a file for open questions if you would like your replication partner to have a look at that.
- Have you uploaded this report including your output figures/tables (screenshot is ok) and Rscript into dropbox?
- Have you sent an email to your replication partner explaining the content of your dropbox (Rcode, Paper, Data)?

Week 5: Cross-check & Analyzing a published replication paper

1. Replication of your partner's work

In the folder Week5 > Students cross-replications > yourname replicated othername:

- upload your Rscript (save theirs under 'chris_replicates_james.R' and make comments within)
- upload your 500 words report (chris_report_for_james.doc)

Please follow the guidelines from handout week 4 for this.

2. Analyzing a published replication paper

In the handout I assigned a published replication to each of you. Read those papers and make notes on the following for our discussion in class: structure, research question, how they added value. This can serve you as a template for your own replication paper.

Week 6: Planning your added value part in the replication

- Upload a document listing 2-3 ways in which you will add value to your replication
- Write a short paragraph why (theoretically, or from the data) this is a good idea

Week 7: Assignments for the break

During the break of four weeks you will have four weeks to make substantial progress towards completing the replication and producing the final assignment, a paper draft and replicable Rcode.

The goal for the break is that you are producing a new, improved replication package for your new replication partner to check before it goes on our data verse.

You should upload 5 documents at the deadlines I sent around by email. Please keep to the deadlines, so that I have sufficient time to read all your documents and provide feedback.

1. Work on the outline of your replication paper according to the structure we discussed last

week. Upload a one page outline with headings and subheadings for your paper to the dropbox under yourname_outline 2. Write the introduction, theoretical part, hypotheses, literature review (including critique of the replication paper), and data description. Upload this draft of your replication paper to the dropbox under yourname_draft Use published replication papers as templates.
3. Finish your replication, i.e. all models, tables, figures from the original papers and make a note of which were replicable, and when the results differed. Upload this document, including the Rcode to the dropbox under yourname_report.doc and yourname_replication_final.R
4. Start adding value to your replication. Use ideas we discussed in class, and follow a clear plan. Try to aim for 2-3 added value points, produce result tables and figures. Upload the Rcode for the tables and figures clearly commented to the dropbox under yourname_addedvalue.R
5. Write a short report about this, and your difficulties, and upload that including the produced tables and figures in a report called yourname_addedvalue.doc

You can send emails to the overall email-list if you are stuck at any point and need help.

Do not miss the deadlines. Even producing a rough draft or 'as much as you can do' to meet the deadline will mean that you have made progress, and forced yourself to move closer to the final assignment goal.

Should you have any questions or concerns during the break, send them to the overall email list.