

Methodology  
**MeMa**seminars  
Matters

**MODELLING CAUSAL PATHWAYS -  
STRUCTURAL EQUATIONS AND MEDIATION  
OF CAUSAL EFFECTS**

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The history of theories on causality is a history of increasing contextualization of causal claims. This is reflected in the refined counterfactual theory (Lewis 2000) or the structural equation approach (Pearl 2009). In typical econometric regression models, effect heterogeneity remains a widely neglected issue. Starting from causal scope conditions, participants are familiarized with directed graphs as a visualization of causal assumptions and learn to use the “back-door criteria” to keep models as parsimonious as possible. Building on this, effect heterogeneity is addressed with mediation models using the structural equation framework. Mediation models are a powerful framework to assess causal pathways as well as raise awareness of heterogeneous effects and its implications for causal identification.

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**24 March 2017**

Computer Lab, h. 9.00-12.15 and 13.30-18.00

NASP Graduate School in Social and Political Sciences

via Pace 10 - Milan

For organizational reasons, participants are kindly requested to send an e-mail to  
**[gssps@unimi.it](mailto:gssps@unimi.it) by 13 March 2017**

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