

Matching in Practice Network

Philosophy of the network:

There is a growing community of researchers in Europe working on assignment and matching, and more specifically on matching applications to education or labor markets where prices play no or a very small role in determining the ultimate outcome. The field is very active and is now ripe for greater interactions between theory, experiments, analysis of field data and policy / market design. Indeed, some of us have started going in this direction, being by leveraging recent advances in the theory when looking at data, getting involved in the policy debate or using data or insights from the policy arena to feed their theoretical work. At the same time, in many of these dimensions, the center of gravity for research remains in the US. This means that many of us mostly rely on their connections to the US to get feedback on their research.

The purpose of this network is to build a community of researchers in Europe interested in deepening the interactions between theory, experiments, empirical analysis and market design in matching, and to promote interactions and feedback on work in progress in this area. Put differently, the purpose is to create an informal venue for frequent information exchanges and research discussions around a topical theme that brings expertise from (currently) somewhat independent research strands.

Activities of the network:

To achieve this goal, the network will organize regular (twice yearly) one-day workshops to discuss work in progress and other relevant developments in methods, data, or in the policy arena. At this stage, and given that we do not all know each other (this is the purpose of this network!), the emphasis will be placed on deepening interactions rather than on broadening the scope. So in particular, we would encourage frequent participation by a small group of people rather than loose participation by a large group of people, in order to achieve the goal of community building and cross-field fertilization.

Note that the firm intention is that this remains a low (administrative) cost endeavour. So in particular, while the local host for these workshops will take care of the catering and may also coordinate accommodation, every participant will be expected to take care of their own travel arrangements, including paying for these. When possible, the timing of the workshop will be such to allow for same day travel for most participants. There is also no ambition to set a conference series of the type that already exists in our respective areas (with all the obligations that come with it in terms of fund-raising, grants for junior participants, logistics). In other words: think of it as if we happened to be all in the same department and wanted to talk about our research.

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