

## **What Questions Experimental Design Can and Cannot Answer in Program Evaluation**

Presenter: Prof John C Ham

Date: 23 October 2015

Time: 4pm to 5.30pm

Venue: EVANS room (Level 2), VENTUS, 8 Kent Ridge Drive, National University of Singapore

### **Abstract:**

In this presentation I consider the National Support Work Experiment in the United States. In this experiment volunteers were assigned to a treatment group and a control group; the experimental group received subsidized jobs while there was no intervention for the controls. I show that one easily can read from the experimental data that the treatment raised the employment rate of the treatments after they left subsidized employment relative to the controls. However, experimental data alone cannot tell us whether this occurred because the treatments had shorter unemployment spells and/or longer employment spells in the future

### **Presenter's profile:**

John Ham received his BA from the University of Toronto and his PhD from Princeton University. He has been an Assistant and Associate Professor at Toronto, a Full Professor at Maryland, Ohio State, and Pittsburgh, and Professor and Chair at the University of Southern California. He joined the National University of Singapore permanently in January, 2015. He is currently an Associate Editor at the Journal of Econometrics and at Labour Economics, and previously was an Associate Editor at the Journal of Applied Econometrics and served on the NSF Review Panel. He has received grants from the JY Pillay Institute, NIA, NIH, NSF and the Social Science and Humanities Research Council of Canada. He has published in the American Economic Review, Econometrica, the Journal of Political Economy and the Review of Economic Studies, as well as in other journals. His research is in the general area of applied microeconomics, program evaluation, and theoretical econometrics.

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