

AY2026

**Recruiting Materials for
EDP Advanced Seminars**



Professors offering Advanced Seminars
AY2026

Professor Kellam

Professor Tomura

Professor Veszteg

Professor Asako

Professor Shimokawa

Professor Jou

Professor Kawamura

Professor Kvasov

Professor Yamamoto

Professor Rujiwattanapong

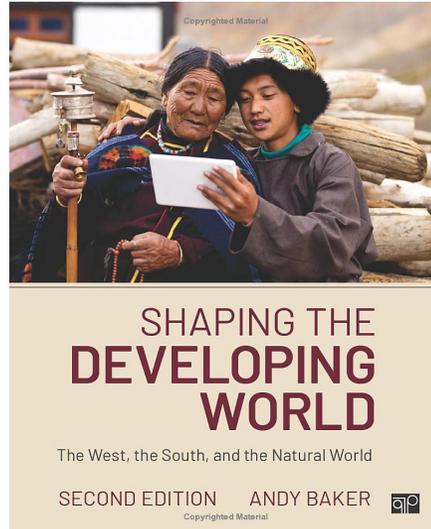
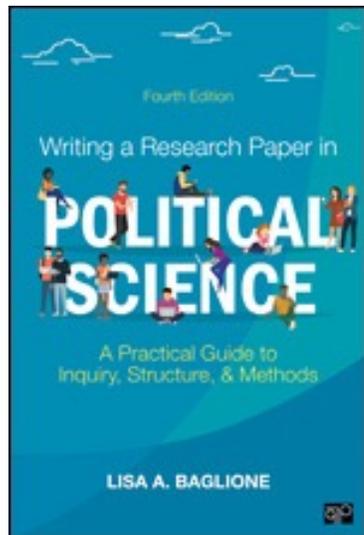
Professor Kellam's Advanced Seminar

Comparison is the defining feature of the subfield of Comparative Politics, and a key component in scientific inquiry more generally. We compare across countries, within countries, and over time to understand why political systems are free or not free, stable or unstable, violent or peaceful, stagnant or productive, etc.

1 & 2

Develop understanding of comparative politics

Expand knowledge about politics around the globe



3 & 4

Learn how to do research in comparative politics

Write a thesis step-by-step

<https://sites.google.com/site/marisakellam/zemi>



The World Turned Upside Down

Sculpture by Mark Wallinger, installed at LSE



<http://www.authagraph.com>

Professor Kellam's Advanced Seminar

Comparative politics is the subfield of political science that explains relationships between social, economic and political variables while focusing on politics within countries. Comparative politics uses cross-national comparisons and change over time to understand why political systems are free or not free, stable or unstable, violent or peaceful, honest or corrupt, stagnant or productive, etc.

- The **first year** of the Advanced Seminar aims to develop students' understanding of comparative politics, and to expand students' knowledge about politics around the globe.
- The **second year** of the Advanced Seminar focuses on students' individual research in comparative politics on a topic of their own choosing.
- I am flexible with regards to the seminar sequence for students who study abroad.

Advanced Seminar 1-2

This seminar will emphasize **comparative politics of developing countries in the Global South**, seeking to understand in general why some countries are rich and others are poor. We will discuss and debate various arguments about the developing world, and look closely at several case studies from various regions of the globe. The goal is to develop a common base of knowledge among the seminar participants and lay a foundation for students' own research projects in subsequent semesters.

In the first semester, we use Andy Baker's textbook *Shaping the Developing World* (2nd edition, 2022) to structure the seminar. Students will take turns presenting the main arguments in the book. When they are not presenting the main arguments, students will be asked to look *beyond the textbook* to provide context to the case studies – for example, showing images, playing music, locating an interesting article or short video about the country. Another student each week will be assigned the task of explaining an empirical indicator related to the chapter topic but going *beyond the textbook* – for example, visiting the website of the original source of the indicator and making a simple graph using online tools (I can help with this). Thus, everybody will be actively involved in one way or another in our collective learning experience.

Building upon the knowledge acquired in the previous seminar, in Advanced Seminar 2 students will read **scholarly journal articles** that they select on a topic that interests them. While the topics/countries will depend upon the particular interests of the seminar participants, we will keep our focus on politics in new democracies and non-democracies, and in developing countries (rather than the wealthy, established Western European democracies or Japan, for instance). Each week students will share what they learn each week with the rest of the seminar participants through short writing assignments and class discussion.

Advanced Seminar 3-4

Whereas Advanced Seminars 1 & 2 developed students' abilities as "consumers" of comparative politics research, Advanced Seminars 3 & 4 will cultivate students' skills as "producers" of research. In these seminars, students will **learn the elements of a well-designed research project** and become familiar with research methods that are appropriate to different types of research questions. Students will be guided step-by-step as they apply these skills and methods to their own research project, following Lisa Baglione's textbook *Writing a Research Paper in Political Science* (3rd or 4th edition)

During the course of the seminar, students will present their work in progress and offer constructive critiques of others' work. By the end of Advanced Seminar 3, each student will have identified a feasible research question for their thesis, supported by a literature review, and will have developed their hypothesized answer to their research question. In Advanced Seminar 4, students will design and complete the empirical research required to complete their thesis project.

Thesis

The ultimate goal of this Advanced Seminar is for each participant to produce a thesis that offers an original contribution to the subfield of comparative politics. While not required for graduation, I encourage seminar participants to write a thesis as the culmination of this seminar sequence and their undergraduate education more generally. Usually I meet with students one-on-one during the final phase of refining and polishing the thesis.

Doing research is fun and exciting!

While the focus of this seminar is entirely academic, we conduct the seminar in an informal manner and the participants get to know one another and are encouraged to work together. We have a seminar lunch or dinner to celebrate the end of the year.

For more information

You can find a list of past thesis titles on my website:

<https://sites.google.com/site/marisakellam/zemi>

About Professor Kellam

My research focuses on democratic politics in Latin America. If you would like to hear more about some of my recent research, tune in to Waseda's podcast **Rigorous Research, Real Impact** (Episode 3):

<https://www.waseda.jp/top/en/news/82695>

Many of you may know me from the course "Introduction to Political Analysis." I am from California, where I attended college at UCSB and grad school at UCLA. I spent my sabbatical from 2021 to 2023 at the Center on Democracy, Development, and the Rule of Law at Stanford University.

How do you apply for this seminar?

Please submit your application through the School of Political Science and Economics. In the section on Academic/Research Interests, please list at least five questions about politics that interest you. If you have any questions, please email me (kellam@waseda.jp).

Hajime Tomura's Advanced Seminar series

This Advanced Seminar series will cover various financial crises worldwide since World War II. The course materials are case studies written by policy analysts in public institutions and academics. Using these materials, we will review the chronology of each crisis and analyze the underlying mechanisms using theories from international economics and finance. Through this seminar series, you will learn common principles behind financial crises across different countries. This knowledge will help predict how a financial crisis will evolve in a country. Along with reviewing the course materials, each registered student is also expected to write an essay per year:

- a short essay on an economics-related topic of each student's choice in the first year (Advanced Seminars 1 and 2);
- a thesis in the second year, which can be based on the short essay in the first year (Advanced Seminars 3 and 4 and Thesis).

Please find more details on each Advanced Seminar course and the Thesis course below.

Advanced Seminars 1 and 3 in the Spring semester: The Spring Advanced Seminar class will cover one of the two topics:

- Banking crises in the U.S., Sweden, and Japan in the 1980s and the 1990s, and also currency crises in Latin American countries, East Asian countries, and Europe since the 1980s;
- The U.S. subprime mortgage loan crisis of 2007-09. In this topic, you will learn how the shadow banking system developed in the U.S. after the early 1990s and how it led to the 2007-09 financial crisis, which nearly paralyzed the U.S. financial system.

When deemed more desirable for students and permitted by department regulations, Advanced Seminar courses for third- and fourth-year students in the Spring semester (i.e., Advanced Seminar 1 and Advanced Seminar 3, respectively) may be combined into a single class (if implemented, this will be indicated in the course syllabus). Regardless of the class setup, each year these courses will also cover an introductory textbook on financial econometrics to equip or refresh registered students with econometric skills that will help with essay and thesis writing.

Advanced Seminar 2 in the Fall semester: This course covers the Great Depression in the U.S. and Europe in the 1930s. In this course, you will learn the political economy behind the international dynamics of the Great Depression and the reasons why the gold standard failed

to stabilize the world economy.

Advanced Seminar 4 in the Fall semester: This course is a workshop for thesis writing. In this course, students will present their work-in-progress for their theses and receive constructive feedback from the instructor. For the thesis topic, you can choose any topic of your interest that is related to economics.

Thesis: If you choose to write a thesis under the instructor's supervision, you are expected to be registered for the instructor's Advanced Seminar 4 and Thesis course. You are expected to submit your thesis within the same semester as Advanced Seminar 4 or in the following semester.

Alternatively, please consult the instructor if you want to be registered for Advanced Seminar 3 and submit your thesis in the same semester. Even though you can choose this option if you wish, you will receive less feedback from the instructor on your thesis during the Advanced Seminar 3 course because there will be course materials to review for Advanced Seminar 3, as described above.

Regarding choosing a thesis topic, I suggest you consider which skill you want to acquire (statistics, accounting, historical knowledge, etc.) before graduation, and aim to write a thesis as practice in using that skill.

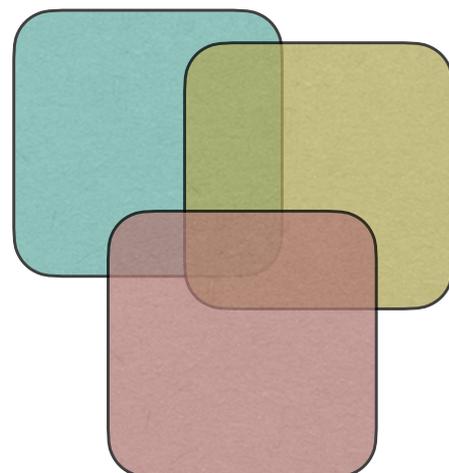
For personal information, visit my page on researchmap.jp or contact me by [email](mailto:veszteg@econ.kyushu-u.ac.jp).

THE GENERAL IDEA

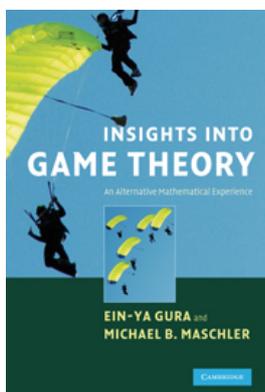
The main goal of my seminar sequence is to discuss advanced topics from microeconomics and game theory that typically do not show up in your undergraduate courses, yet they constitute an important part of modern economics.

My seminars rely on a mix of academic books and journal articles that offer alternative approaches to the analyzed problems. Formal models are considered next to empirical and experimental evidence.

I believe that seminars offer a unique opportunity for discussion and practice that help deepening your knowledge.

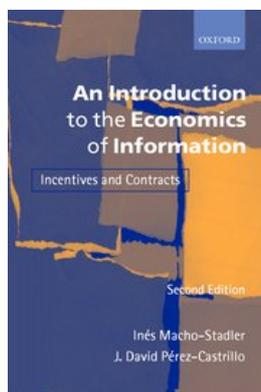


SOME DETAILS ABOUT EACH SEMINAR



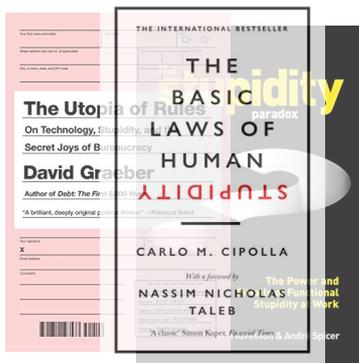
ADVANCED SEMINAR 1
chapters / topics covered

- Mathematical matching
- Social justice
- The Shapley value in cooperative games
- Analysis of a bankruptcy problem from the Talmud



ADVANCED SEMINAR 2
chapters / topics covered

- The base model
- The moral hazard problem
- The adverse selection problem
- Signaling



ADVANCED SEMINAR 3
topics covered

We reconsider the assumption of rationality (perfect and bounded) by taking an interdisciplinary approach. We discuss and read about stupidity, and how it matters for individual and interactive decision-making.



ADVANCED SEMINAR 4
chapters / topics covered

- your topics
 - and
 - references
 - go here
- In this seminar, we explore topics chosen by students.

YOUR (TYPICAL) TASKS DURING THE SEMINAR SEQUENCE

individual work

- read book chapters and/or journal articles
- answer discussion questions

group work

- present research papers
- solve models and exercises
- discuss research

ANSWERS TO SOME OF YOUR TYPICAL QUESTIONS

- Yes, we will be working with mathematical models.
- No, you won't get credit for attendance, yet you are required to show up in class.
- No, you don't necessarily have to write an essay.
- Yes, we can try to change the schedule / topics / references.
- Yes, we can organize joint social activities, including a trip to a seminar house.

Prof. ASAKO's Advanced Seminar

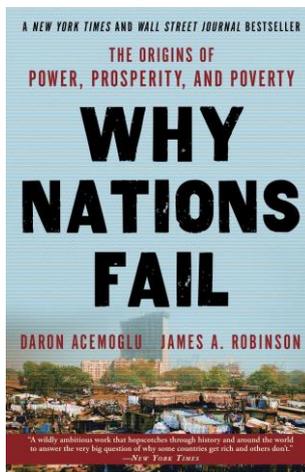
MAIN TOPIC

This seminar is mainly about [political economy](#) (and [applied game theory](#)). The government determines economic policies, and hence, politics significantly affects the economy. On the other hand, the state of the economy will change the political behaviors of citizens. This seminar *mainly* discusses how economy is related to political institutions.

ADVANCED SEMINARS 1-2: INTRODUCTION TO POLITICAL ECONOMY

There is one very important but unsolved question in economics. Why are some nations rich and others poor, divided by wealth and poverty, health and sickness, food and famine? Acemoglu and Robinson's book [Why Nations Fail](#) conclusively shows that it is man-made political and economic institutions that underlie economic success (or the lack of it). In the first semester, we will read it and other materials to understand how economy and politics are related to each other. In the second seminar, we will read [Political Economy for Public Policy](#) (game theoretical discussions on public policy).

[



CREATE YOUR SEMINARS

Topics in my advanced seminars 3 and 4 will be decided by students in my seminar. Even though this seminar is mainly about political economy and applied game theory, students can choose any topic. However, it must be related to analysis on economy and/or politics using game theory or data. The examples of past seminar topics are as follows.

- ✓ game theory in developing economics
- ✓ game theory in international relations
- ✓ game theory in comparative politics
- ✓ economic analysis on autocracy

PREREQUISITE?

I require students to take *Introduction to Game Theory* and *Statistics (I and II)*. I also strongly recommend you to take *Game Theory I* and *Public Choice*. However, they are not prerequisite, and you can take them along with my seminars.

THESIS

A graduation thesis is not required. It is totally your decision.

About Professor



Yasushi Asako is an associate professor of FPSE at Waseda University. Asako's work is motivated by the applications of game theory to political institutions. He has made contributions to the study of electoral promises, legislative bargaining, and other important topics in political economy. He also works on theoretical and experimental analysis on bubble economy. After earning a Ph.D. in economics from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, he spent two and a half years as an economist at the Bank of Japan. Since 2012, he has been teaching in the English-based degree program of Waseda University's School of Political Science and Economics.

Shimokawa's Advanced Seminars

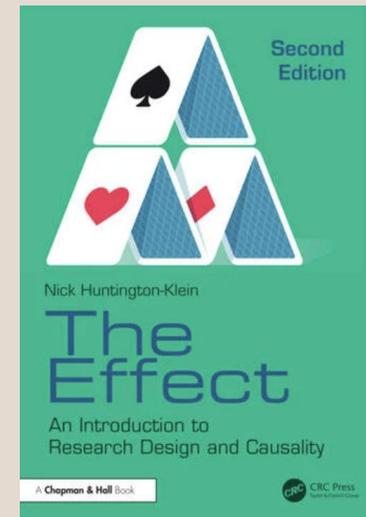
To learn about my advanced seminars and my research topics, please check my homepage.

<https://prj-foodecon.w.waseda.jp/>

The "about laboratory" page

<https://prj-foodecon.w.waseda.jp/laboratory/>

- ✓ In the first year, students will use textbooks such as “The Effect: An Introduction to Research Design and Causality” to learn about research designs and intermediate-level econometrics using real data. (Please check the syllabus for more details)
- ✓ Starting from the second year, students are asked to work on research projects either individually or in groups.



Advanced seminar series by Willy Jou

The theme of this advanced seminar series is political culture – what people think about various aspects of the political system and, very importantly, what they believe they should or shouldn't do in terms of political activities. We focus on the attitudes and behavior of ordinary citizens, and look at examples from different countries.

Where do people's political values come from, and how can these values change? Why do people in some societies cooperate with one another more than in other places? Why are there a lot of protests in some countries but not in, say, Japan? Why do some people care more about the environment while others emphasize economic growth? What's driving the success of right-wing populists that we often hear about in the news recently? These are among the questions we address in the advanced seminars.

Students are expected to take turns summarizing and critiquing assigned articles and book chapters, both as short papers and as class presentations. Students will be asked to write a term paper or answer questions on a take-home exam at the end of each semester.

Advanced seminar 1

We begin with the basic question of where people's values come from. Are your beliefs influenced by your parents? friends? school? Do these beliefs mostly remain the same over time, or do they evolve depending on where you are and who you interact with? In the latter half of the seminar, students are introduced to the classic book *The Civic Culture* by Almond and Verba, which distinguishes three types of political cultures and discusses their relationship with stages of economic development and government system.

Advanced seminar 2

Some places seem safe, organized, efficient, where people know and look after each other, while other places are far less appealing. Why? We look at two key explanations: 1) joining voluntary groups and 2) interpersonal trust. These are referred to as 'social capital.' Students are asked to read book chapters by Putnam on how social capital makes societies better (e.g. higher economic growth, lower crime), and also articles that question whether the story is really so simple, to make their own judgments.

Advanced seminar 3

For people suffering from starvation, or fleeing a war zone, there would be nothing more important than physical survival. By contrast, if you never have to worry about these, then your priorities are likely quite different. The same applies to societies as a whole: generations who grow up under conditions of peace and prosperity tend to give more emphasis to gender equality, environmental protection, human rights, etc. Students will learn about this theory of 'post-materialism', and discuss its implications.

Advanced seminar 4

Students are allowed to choose topics they are interested in. In previous years, one part of this seminar continued from the theme of value change, with attention now turning to people who are uncomfortable with changes in their societies. Specifically, we looked at what motivated them to support right-wing populists who promise security and order.

Notes

If you have any questions and/or would like more information, please write to <willy@waseda.jp>.

Thesis

While students are not required to write a thesis, they are welcome to do so during or after advanced seminar 4. If you plan to graduate before that, it's possible to work on a thesis during advanced seminar 3. Please consult the instructor if you are interested.

About the instructor

Willy Jou has been an associate professor in the School of Political Science and Economics since 2016. He received a PhD in political science from the University of California, Irvine, and has worked on topics related to political attitudes and behavior. He has published more than two dozen journal articles and co-authored several books.

Kohei's Advanced Seminar

My advanced seminar is all about examining human behaviour and various real-world issues through the lens of microeconomic theory. To do this, we combine the practice of traditional exam-style essay writing and informal discussions.

NOTE: The format of my Advanced Seminar sequence will be very different from that of previous years.

Advanced Seminars 1 and 2: The Core Training This is where the serious work begins. In order to develop a deep understanding of basic theoretical models, Advanced Seminars I and II operate on rigorous **three-week cycles** designed to sharpen both your analytical and communication skills. Here is how a typical cycle works.

- **Week 1 (Lecture & Research):** We start with a lecture on a core topic, which you will then follow up with your own independent research. AI-assisted research is welcome here.
- **Week 2 (In-Class Essay):** You will sit down and write an exam-style in-class essay. I cannot stress enough that doing your own self-research beforehand is **essential** to surviving this week.
- **Week 3 (Feedback & Discussion):** We review the work. You will receive individual feedback on your writing to help you develop the ability to organize your knowledge and ideas for effective presentation.

The topics we cover in these cycles will give you a solid theoretical toolkit. In Seminar I, we plan to tackle **the limits and power of the market, information aggregation, and basics in game theory**. In Seminar II, we dive into **crimes and punishment, Bayesian updating, asymmetric information, and multiple equilibria**.

Advanced Seminars 3 and 4: Your Own Projects Once you have mastered the foundational cycles, I fully expect my seminar students to graduate with a thesis. You will start your own independent projects, and our class time will shift to focus mostly on student presentations and feedback. The real-life issues past students have looked at are extremely diverse: ranging from **family finance in Chinese small businesses and the economics of cannabis legalization, to matching mechanisms in the job market and figuring out why there are so many different types of electrical plugs and sockets**.

Beyond the Models Despite the serious focus on essays and theory, there will be lots of chit-chatting in the course. I am always keen to discuss current economic, political, social, and even personal affairs with students. The goal is for you to naturally incorporate solid economic reasoning into your day-to-day thought process.

Outside of class, I organize a dinner or lunch party at least once a semester so we can interact informally. Many of my students go on to postgraduate programmes in and outside of Japan, and I am always happy to offer information and advice over a meal for your further studies.

WHAT, WHY, AND HOW OF THE SEMINAR

- WHAT? we study: algorithmic strategies, paradigms, and heuristics (dynamic programming, greedy optimization, etc.) and topics in game theory (pursuit and evasion games, evolutionary games, combinatorial games).
- WHY? to develop algorithmic thinking and problem-solving skills; to learn elements of computer science, game theory, and coding (Python).
- HOW? a typical class goes like this: a bit of theory is introduced and thoroughly discussed, then several related problems are offered for solution by the whole class or in smaller groups; once an algorithmic solution is found, we write Python code for it.

PAST SEMINAR PROBLEMS

Have a go at these past problems from the seminar, see what it is all about, and decide whether it is for you.

1. You have 15 bags. How many marbles do you need so that you can have a different number of marbles in each bag?
2. You have 3,000 bananas and a camel. Your camel can carry 1,000 bananas, but it eats a banana every mile it travels. What is the maximal number of bananas you can transport to the market 1,000 miles away?
3. A squad car of speed 2 chases a mobster of speed 1 on a grid (think downtown Manhattan). Squad car cannot take left turns and cannot do U-turns. Will it ever catch the mobster?

In 1 fourteen marbles will do the trick. Join the seminar for the answers to 2 and 3.

Advanced Seminar
“Social Data Science / Political Methodology”

— Professor: Teppei Yamamoto —

What Is Social Data Science?

- Use statistics and programming to analyze or change society
- Key is to understand human beings and their interactions behind data

What Is Political Methodology?

- Branch of social data science, focusing on politics
- Relative of econometrics, psychometrics, sociological methodology, etc.
- A perfect subfield of political science to specialize in if you:
 - like (or at least don't hate) math and programming
 - are interested in scientifically analyzing politics and policies
 - become a data scientist at a tech company
 - pursue an academic career

Advanced Seminar I/II

Statistics / Data Science Boot Camp

- Build essential skills for becoming a social data scientist / political methodologist
- Deepen knowledge about statistics and data science on top of Statistics I/II
- Topics include:
 - Review of Stats I/II
 - Causal inference and experiments
 - Survey methodology
 - Statistical simulation, etc.

Goal:

Acquire the statistics and programming basics to start doing your own project

Advanced Seminar III/IV

Original Project

- Research project, programming project, or social implementation project
- Solo, group, or with Professor
- Current projects:
 - Creating a restaurant matching app for Waseda students
 - Developing an R package for conjoint analysis

Goal:

Produce something original (a thesis, a software package, an app, a website, etc.)

Lab Rules:

- Selection will be based on your Stats I/II grades, a brief statement of interest, and (possibly) a quick interview.
- I will grade you based on participation and weekly/term-end deliverables. On the latter, focus will be more on whether you have fulfilled your personalized goals than on absolute level of performance. There will be no exams or graded quizzes.

Advanced Seminar by Similan Rujiwattanapong

Introduction

In this seminar, we will focus on the intersection of **macroeconomics and labour economics**, particularly the macroeconomic implications of the labour market. Related areas may also be explored depending on students' interests. Examples of topics include:

- Unemployment
- Job search
- Inequality in wage, income, and wealth
- Business cycle fluctuations
- Labour market policies

Main Goals

- Develop research and quantitative skills
- Conduct data analysis
- Read, evaluate, and conduct academic research
- Present and communicate economic ideas effectively

Structure

- **Semesters 1-2 (Consumer of Research):**
 - Discuss and present academic papers, textbooks, policy reports
 - Learn quantitative and analytical skills (including basic coding)
- **Semesters 3-4 (Producer of Research):**
 - Conduct and present independent or group research
 - Perform data and quantitative analyses

Prerequisites

- Students are expected to have completed **Macroeconomics II**. Familiarity with **intermediate macroeconomics and labour economics** is recommended.
- Courses in statistics, econometrics, or programming are also encouraged.
- The following textbooks provide useful background:
 - Macroeconomics, 2013, Nils Gottfries, Palgrave Macmillan
 - Labor Economics by George J. Borjas (7th edition). 2016. McGraw-Hill

Good match if you

- Want to improve quantitative and research skills

- Are interested in macroeconomics and/or labour economics
(*Prior experience in coding is not necessary, but willingness to learn new things will help!)

Bachelor's thesis

- You are encouraged to do so, but it is not required in this seminar.

Assessments

- Presentations and research-related assignments
- Active participation in every class meeting
 - Attendance is necessary but not sufficient

Founding Cohort and Seminar Community

- This seminar will commence in April 2026. Students joining this year will form the founding cohort.
- This first cohort will help establish the academic culture and standards of the seminar.
- The seminar is designed to encourage interaction across different academic years. As it develops, students in later semesters may share their research progress and experiences with newer members.
- This structure promotes intellectual continuity and fosters a strong, collaborative academic community.

About me

I am an Associate Professor at the Faculty of Political Science and Economics, Waseda University since 2020. I completed my PhD in Economics at University College London. Prior to joining Waseda, I was an Assistant Professor at the Department of Economics, Aarhus University in Denmark. Before I started my PhD, I was working as a diplomatic officer at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs as well as an economist at the Ministry of Finance in Thailand.

My research fields: Macroeconomics, Search and Matching, Labour Economics.

My research topics: Labour Market Dynamics, Labour Market Policies, Business Cycles, Unemployment Insurance, Labour Force Participation, Household Savings, Climate Change, Automation.

Questions

If you have any questions, feel free to ask me at sruji@waseda.jp