Social Data Science

Project Rubric: Review in Lecture

Rubric item 1: Descriptive question

The descriptive research question is well motivated, feasible, and avoids causal language.

- ▶ We estimate the employment rate among those who are and are not enrolled in college, for U.S. residents ages 18–22 in 2024.

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Examples with problems:

- ▶ We estimate how college enrollment leads to less employment...
- ▶ We estimate the relative importance of three predictors of employment...

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Remember that a descriptive question is
a (summary statistic) of (outcome) among (subgroups)

Rubric item 2: Causal question

The causal research question is well motivated, feasible, and states appropriate causal assumptions.

A high-scoring submission might involve

- ▶ Average causal effect of XX on YY among ZZ
- ▶ Potential outcomes defined
- ▶ DAG included
- ▶ Tells us what is the sufficient adjustment set

Rubric items 3–7: Elements of the research question

- ▶ Unit of analysis is defined clearly
- ▶ Target population is defined clearly
  - ▶ (Not your sample—population from which your sample is drawn)
- ▶ Predictor(s) are defined clearly
- ▶ Outcome is defined clearly
- ▶ Summary statistic is defined clearly (e.g., mean, median, proportion)

Rubric items 8–10: Data

- ▶ Data source is described
- ▶ Sample restrictions are precisely stated, with the number of cases dropped at each step
- ▶ Weights are used appropriately, if applicable

Rubric items 11–14: Code style and presentation of results

- ▶ Text explains and interprets the figure(s)
- ▶ Writing is concise and grammatically correct
- ▶ Code is well-formatted, well-documented, and easy to follow
- ▶ Code lines fit on the PDF page