LYON SUMMER SCHOOL IN EMPIRICAL RESEARCH METHODS

ÉCOLE NORMALE SUPÉRIEURE DE LYON

JULY 2026

2 KEYNOTES

A 7 MODULE-COURSE TRACK

SOCIAL EVENTS

JUNE 30 - JULY 2, 2026 - LYON

contact: econ.summer.school@ens-lyon.fr

website: cergic-lyon.fr/summer-school

Center for Economic Research
ENS de Lyon
Governance
Inequality
Conflict

UNIVERSITÉ DE LYON

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LYON SUMMER SCHOOL IN EMPIRICAL RESEARCH METHODS

About

The Lyon Summer School in Empirical Research Methods is designed for early-stage PhD students to provide them with the essential methodological tools and practical guidance for conducting rigorous empirical research. The summer school is open to PhD students in economics and other quantitative social sciences disciplines. The programme focuses on the entire research process, from formulating a strong research question to presenting compelling results.

Conducting empirical research in economics poses a number of challenges that need to be considered from the outset of a project. Participants will develop a solid foundation in empirical research design, data collection and analysis. They will learn how to build robust research frameworks, collect and handle data effectively, and adhere to academic standards, including GDPR compliance.

Two keynotes

Pauline Rossi

Pauline Rossi is professor of economics at Ecole Polytechnique and a research affiliate at CREST, CEPR and BREAD. She is an associate editor at Economic Journal and Journal of the European Economic Association. She is also a member of the Council of Economic Analysis. Her fields of research are development economics and family economics.

Abel Brodeur

Abel Brodeur is professor of economics at the University of Ottawa and chair of the Institute for Replication. His research lies at the intersection of applied microeconomics and labor economics. His recent work focuses on scientific transparency, research credibility, and the replication of empirical findings in the social sciences. He serves in various editorial roles promoting open science and reproducible research practices.

A 7 Module-course track

WRITING A PAPER INTRODUCTION

This module teaches how to write and present a clear and compelling introduction for a research paper in economics. You will learn to motivate your topic, frame your research question, highlight your contribution, position your work within the literature, and use the optimal structure for both slides and paragraphs. Emphasis will be placed on writing that is clear, precise, and concise. By the end of the course, you will be able to write and present introductions that effectively engage readers and set the stage for your research.

DATA VIZUALIZATION

A significant portion of communicating economic research results—whether in presentations or written papers—relies on graphs and visuals. This session aims to help you develop essential skills for effective data visualization. We will cover fundamental visualization principles and general best practices before examining the specific challenges of data visualization for causal inference. While it can be a powerful rhetorical tool for causal inference, data visualizations can also be misleading if not handled carefully.

DATA COLLECTION

Theses two modules introduces automated approaches to collecting novel data, drawing on both historical archives and high-resolution satellite imagery. Participants will gain an overview of state-of-the-art tools—from web scraping, OCR, and AI-based extraction of text, tables, images, and maps, to the use of satellite data to study environmental change, agriculture and food security, and natural resources. The modules highlight key trade-offs in time, cost, skills, legality, and data quality, helping participants assess what different techniques can realistically achieve. Students have the opportunity to choose either one of the two thematic modules or to take both.

LLMs FOR ACADEMIC RESEARCH

This module introduces you to the practical applications of large language models (LLMs) throughout the research pipeline. You will learn how to use LLMs to support brainstorming,literature review, and academic writing, as well as how to leverage LLMs' APIs for empirical tasks such as automated data collection, text analysis, and coding. The module will also cover critical aspects including algorithmic biases, ethical considerations, and best practices for ensuring quality and reliability.

REPLICATION AND DATA MANAGEMENT

This module introduces the key concepts of reproducibility and replicability in empirical research. It emphasizes their role in promoting transparency and credibility in Economics by addressing issues such as publication bias and p-hacking. We will also discuss why replication matters and how replication studies are conducted. We will also review guidelines for setting up reproducible workflows, data management and version control, and for creating replication packages from day one.

DISCUSSING A RESEARCH PAPER

This module provides you with a methodology and tips for constructively discussing research papers in two academic settings. First, you will learn how to deliver a paper discussion at academic events such as workshops and conferences— highlighting contributions, identifying caveats, and offering forward-looking suggestions in a concise way. Second, the module guides you through the steps of writing a referee report for a journal, including how to structure your evaluation, phrase your criticism and comments, and communicate clearly with editors.

Social events

This summer school provides opportunities to exchange ideas and connect with other participants in Lyon, on the ENS campus. Lunch is included each day, providing time for informal moments to share and discuss. Participants are also invited to welcome drinks on Day 1 and a group dinner on Day 2.

FEES & REGISTRATION

Total cost: 750 €

Please note that the registration fees does not cover the accommodation during the Summer School. You will also need to budget for a number of expenses not covered by the program fee, including transportation to and from Lyon, and meals not included in the program fee (dinner on Day 1).

How to apply

To apply, please send an email to *econ.summer.school@ens-lyon.fr* with the following documents attached:

- **CV**
- **Research Proposal (maximum 2 pages) including:**
  - Your field of interest
  - Your research question and project stage
  - Intended contribution and links to the literature
  - How the summer school can support your research

Timeline

- January 15, 2026: Applications open
- March 1, 2026: Applications close
- Mid-March 2026: Notification of decisions
- End of March to Mid-April 2026: Registration and payment period

Organizers/Instructors

- Vincent Bagilet
- Cédric Chambru
- Guillaume Coqueret
- Mathieu Couttenier
- Kenza Elass

- Sylvie Démurger
- Jonathan Goupille-Lebret
- Sophie Hatte
- Elisa Mougin
- Alexandre Verlet

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