

CORD lecture series presents a talk by:



**Alasdair Rutherford**

Thursday April 25, 2019

UCENT 480a

Downtown Phoenix Campus

10:00-11:00 am

**Regression discontinuity and administrative data: Using causal methods to evaluate public policy in the regulation of fundraising**

**Abstract**

The availability of large-scale administrative data on charities and non-profits has provided many opportunities to both test theories and evaluate public policy. Causal methods (e.g. regression discontinuity; interrupted time series; natural experiments) provide opportunities to make causal estimates of interventions when the design of the policy includes (either intentionally or unintentionally) a feature which effectively randomises organisations into treatment and control groups. In this seminar, I will discuss the use, opportunities and challenges of regression discontinuity designs with administrative non-profit data, using the example of evaluating participation by UK charities in the program of a new Fundraising Regulator. By linking data from different regulators, we are able to exploit a sharp eligibility threshold by fundraising expenditure in order to make a causal estimate of the effect of a “fundraising levy” on participation in the regulation, particularly amongst smaller fundraising charities.

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