Teaching Reproducible Research with the Social Science Reproduction Platform

Why teach reproducibility?

Computational reproducibility, or the ability to reproduce the results, tables, and other figures using the available data, code, and materials, through a process of reproduction, is necessary for ensuring that science is self-correcting. Reproducing published work (through a process called “reproduction”) can be used as a teaching tool to introduce students to fundamental concepts and research methods in applied economics. Conducting reproductions can be exciting and valuable; it teaches students about the importance of research transparency and reproducibility, and allows them to make real scientific contributions!

The Social Science Reproduction Platform

Developed by the Berkeley Initiative for Transparency in the Social Sciences—a UC Berkeley-based group led by Prof. Edward Miguel—in collaboration with current AEA Data Editor Lars Vilhuber, the Social Science Reproduction Platform (SSRP) crowdsources and catalogs attempts to assess and improve the reproducibility of social science research. The SSRP streamlines the entire process of conducting reproductions, from selecting papers to identifying their claims, assessing and improving their reproducibility, and conducting robustness checks.

The SSRP can be easily incorporated as a module in applied graduate and undergraduate courses, allowing students to learn about fundamental concepts, research methods, and tools for reproducible research. SSRP users can:

- **Assess and improve the reproducibility** of published papers using a standardized, self-guided workflow that creates citable scholarly objects with DOIs.
- **Receive and contribute feedback in the SSRP Forum**, a moderated discussion board. To join the discussion about a particular paper, look up its DOI in the Reproductions category.
- **Access metrics of reproducibility** aggregated from all reproductions submitted to the platform by students and researchers around the world.

Get started

Go to SocialScienceReproduction.org to sign up for free and find detailed guidance for students and instructors. Contact acre@berkeley.edu with any questions.