

NYU Stern School of Business
Department of Information, Operations & Management Sciences
INFORMATION SYSTEMS RESEARCH SEMINAR

TOPIC: Estimating Causal Effects in Social Network Experiments: A Constructive Critique of Recent Studies

SPEAKER: Cyrus Samii (NYU)

DATE: Thursday, November 8th, 2012

TIME: 12:30-2:00pm

PLACE: KMC 4-90

ABSTRACT

In Aronow and Samii (2012), we lay out conditions and methods for (i) non-parametric identification of causal effects in social experiments conducted in settings of high "interference", such as settings of interaction over social networks, (ii) estimation of causal effects in such settings, and (iii) characterization of the design variance of effect estimates. Drawing on the methodological foundation provided by that paper, the talk will examine innovations and pitfalls in recent empirical work attempting to study how influence percolates through social networks.

BIO

Cyrus Samii is Assistant Professor with the Wilf Family Department of Politics, New York University. He writes and teaches on quantitative social science methodology and policy analysis. His substantive research focuses on the evaluation of governance, development, and conflict management programs in developing countries. He has designed and implemented field studies in Burundi, Colombia, Cote d'Ivoire, Indonesia, Liberia, and Nepal. His methodological research focuses on robust non-parametric and semi-parametric methods for program evaluation, causal inference, sampling, surveys, and missing data. He holds a PhD and MA from Columbia University and a BA from Tufts University.