



Hamburg Financial
Research Center

Doctoral Course
Empirical Methods and Applications in Archival Data Research
Fall 2026



General Information

Lecturer:	Prof. Dr. Peter Limbach
Credits:	5 ECTS
Language of instruction:	English
Max. number of participants:	15
Course dates:	September 02-04, 2026
Location:	University of Hamburg
Participation fee:	600€ (Doctoral students) / 700€ (PostDocs)

Course Description

This course is aimed at doctoral students and postdoctoral researchers who conduct empirical research (primarily using archival data rather than laboratory experiments). Its objective is to develop a deeper understanding of empirical methods and to identify common pitfalls in the application of econometric estimation techniques. In particular, when working with archival data, the careful selection and implementation of appropriate identification strategies is crucial for producing credible and transparent results.

The course covers key methodological challenges, including endogeneity and related issues in statistical inference, the correct application and interpretation of fixed-effects models, difference-in-differences approaches (including the treatment of standard errors), and instrumental variables estimation. Participants are exposed to a broad set of academic studies from accounting, economics, finance, management, and applied econometrics, with the most important contributions discussed in detail during the course. In addition, participants examine representative research papers that employ standard empirical methods and practice their systematic and critical evaluation. Alongside the conceptual discussion of empirical research designs, the course may also emphasize practical implementation, supported by a STATA manual and accompanying exercises.

The course strengthens participants' methodological competence in working with data and empirical results-both in the development of their own empirical studies and in the critical assessment of

existing research. Participants are expected to gain the ability to plan empirical strategies purposefully, to justify them on methodological grounds, and to appropriately situate standard econometric techniques within their respective research contexts.

Target Group and Prerequisites

The course is intended for doctoral students and postdoctoral researchers from a wide range of disciplines, particularly accounting, economics, finance, governance, as well as management and strategy. Basic knowledge of statistics is helpful but not a prerequisite. Further information on course content and structure is provided in the syllabus. The language of instruction is English (German if all participants agree).

Examination

Presentation and discussion of a current empirical research paper (papers will be assigned by the instructor).

About the Lecturer

Peter Limbach is Professor (W3) of Finance and Corporate Governance at the University of Bielefeld. He is also a research fellow of the Centre for Financial Research (CFR) in Cologne. Peter holds a German Diploma (equivalent to MSc) in economics from the University of Bonn and a PhD (Dr. rer. pol.) in finance from the Karlsruhe Institute of Technology (KIT). He spent several months at the Rotterdam School of Management as a visiting PhD. Between December 2016 and May 2021, Peter held the position of CFR Junior-Professor of Investments at the University of Cologne. In 2020, he substituted the Professorship Financial Economics (Prof. Dr. Isabel Schnabel) at the University of Bonn. Peter's research covers topics in corporate finance and financial markets, corporate governance and sustainability, as well as financial accounting. He has published in leading scientific journals, including The Accounting Review, the Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization, the Journal of Financial and Quantitative Analysis, and Management Science. Peter organizes one of Europe's leading virtual accounting and finance research seminar series. Since 2022, he has served as the co-editor of Management Review Quarterly, handling submissions in the areas of accounting, finance, and governance.