

ECO 307: Introductory Econometrics
Informal Writing Assignment: Brainstorming an Idea
Instructor: James Murray

Due Monday, March 4

Type up a *1-2 page* brainstorming for the final project that includes the following:

- A one-sentence thesis statement or research question
- A short description of relevant background information including at least two citations of peer-reviewed articles from economics journals
- A description of your dataset including the source and some of the variables that you are likely to use. I suggest that you browse the following sources for data:
 - IPUMS International: Collection of census data from around the world, measured at the household and individual level. <https://international.ipums.org/international/>
 - IPUMS USA: Collection of household and individual data from the U.S. Census and American Community Survey. It includes data on educational attainment, income, language proficiency, migration, disability, employment, and housing. <https://usa.ipums.org/usa/>
 - IPUMS CPS: Collection of household and individual data from the U.S. Current Population Survey. It includes but is not limited to data on educational attainment, income, health insurance, migration, disability, employment, housing, poverty, and welfare. <https://cps.ipums.org/cps/>
 - Integrated Health Interview Series: Collection of household and individual data on health outcomes, health behaviors, and personal and socio-economic demographics. <https://www.ihis.us/ihis/>
 - Federal Reserve Economic Database (FRED): Collection of U.S national, state, and international macroeconomic and finance data from multiple sources. <https://research.stlouisfed.org/fred2/>

You will be able to browse available data on the IPUMS websites, but you will need to create a free account for each IPUMS website you use to download data.

- Identify at least eight variables that may be useful to use. Describe the following for each variable:
 - Identify the code and give the definition of the variable. Cite your source with a URL to the variable description.
 - What is the scale of measurement (numeric, categorical)?
 - Is the variable an *outcome* variable of interest, a key *explanatory* variable, or an important *control* variable?
- A very brief and broad explanation for the relationships you expect to look for among the variables.

Type up this brainstorming exercise and submit to the appropriate Canvas assignment folder.