

Abstract for Lixiong Li's paper, "Robust Counterfactuals in Centralized Schools Choice Systems" (joint with Ismael Mourifie)

Counterfactual analysis is a cornerstone of education market design research, providing essential insights for policy recommendations. In this paper, we introduce a novel methodology for deriving counterfactuals under a weaker set of assumptions within the class of Gale-Shapley DA-type assignment mechanisms. Our approach relies on intuitive behavioral restrictions that are less stringent than traditional models, as they do not impose all theoretical implications of optimal behavior and do not require specifying any functional form for utilities. This leads to an `\textit{incomplete}` but flexible model of student behavior. We demonstrate that tight bounds on counterfactual outcomes in this framework can be obtained by combining algorithmic techniques with a linear programming approach. Finally, we apply our methodology to evaluate various policies aimed at increasing female enrollment in STEM fields in Chile.