

# Case-Based Seminar 1

Next week's seminar is the first case-based seminar. Because we know you are also working on the Stata assignment, the article for this week is quite short (at 14 pages). You will be reading "Does autonomy over teacher hiring affect student math and science achievement?" by Youngran Kim (*Education Economics* 2017). During the seminar, you will be expected to be able to contribute thoughtful answers to the following questions:

1. What is the subject of the paper? What is the research question?
2. What is it about Kim's data that she claims allows her regression estimates to be interpreted causally?
  - (a) What type of inference problems would you normally expect if you wanted to estimate the effect of hiring autonomy on student achievement?
3. Kim includes several additional explanatory variables aside from the private indicator, such as the number of books at home for students, their amount of home 'resources,' whether students are from a 'disadvantaged' background, and whether or not a school is on the outskirts of town. What are some econometric considerations when including these variables?
4. Kim also checks to see if there is a difference in certain observable characteristics of students between public and private schools. Why is this important?
5. How would you interpret the coefficients in Kim's model? Can you think of any variables in the model that you might want to add or remove?