

The Research Centre of the School of Economics and Business, in cooperation with the Bank of Slovenia, invites you to a research seminar
on **Tuesday, 24 November 2026, at 13:00 CEST in room P-111**
at the School of Economics and Business.

Bernard Black

Northwestern University, Chicago, United States
will present the article:

The Road to False Positives: Evidence for Specification Search in Studies of Reg SHO

Abstract

We provide evidence of specification search by re-examining results from 10 studies of an SEC randomized experiment (Reg SHO) that report evidence for a wide variety of indirect effects of the experiment, despite no evidence for a causal channel for these effects. Using either a simple, pre-specified research design or best-match specifications (which follow the sample and specification choices reported in the respective papers) we obtain null results, while reported results are mostly significant. This suggests that these papers made unreported specification choices, which produced significance. Evidence from Binomial and Kolmogorov-Smirnov tests is consistent with reported results reflecting specification search.

About the author

Professor Bernard Black is an internationally recognised scholar in the fields of law and economics, corporate governance, finance, and empirical methods for identifying causal effects. At Northwestern University, he holds the title of Nicholas D. Chabreja Professor and serves both at the Pritzker School of Law and in the Finance Department of the Kellogg School of Management.

We anticipate your attendance at the seminar with pleasure and appreciate your participation.