

The Evaluation of Competition Policy Enforcement and Institutions

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Abstract: In this talk, I will present some ideas on the evaluation of competition policy enforcement and discuss several empirical methods to perform this assessment as well as some selected results. In doing this, I will mostly draw from my past and current research in this area, focusing mostly on the evaluation of merger policy through program evaluation methods and event studies. Yet, I will also touch upon other topics and approaches by presenting some of the many other contributions that have appeared in the last decade. In this analysis, I will put a special emphasis on how the underlying design of competition policy institutions might affect policy enforcement. Moreover, I will also show the importance of considering the complementarity between competition policy and other institutions —specifically legal institutions— to more precisely assess its effectiveness. Finally, I will highlight when and how different empirical approaches might be best suited to address specific questions. I will then conclude by suggesting some of the open questions and research areas that seem to be interesting and/or promising.