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ANARRES

Writing & Presenting the Report/Paper

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Outline

- Audience
- Question
- Data
- Experiments and Settings
- Limitations
- Report
  - 'Backstory'
  - Experiments
  - Analyses

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Audience: Report

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- To Policy makers
  - Report
    - Policy relevance
    - Real world policy analyses
    - Core data
    - Concise
  - Presentation
    - Hook: policy question/issue
    - Impacts on agents: income distribution; government budget; trade balance; etc.

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Audience: Paper

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- To Academics
  - Paper
    - Novel approach
    - New theory
    - Interesting question
    - Formal exposition of theory/approach
  - Conference Presentation
    - Hook: new theory/approach
    - Impacts: generic economic/social implications

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Question

- Work starts with the question
- Focus on 'Evidence Based Policy Analyses'
  - What is the question?
  - What is the relevance of the question to policy makers?
  - What are the data, are they adequate, do they contain real information, etc.?

Complete **and write up** the 'backstory' before proceeding to the experiments and analyses

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The Modeller from Hell!!!

- Highly sophisticated model
- (highly) non-linear equations
- Results 'broadly' consistent with theory, but ..
- Results cannot be simply explained
- The model was programmed correctly (*by me*)
- The data have some issues (*done by the RA*)

KISS principal

Acknowledgements to Mark Horridge

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Data

- SAM – transactions data
  - Are the accounts appropriate?
    - Relevant tax instruments
    - RHG
    - Factors
    - Commodities/Activities
  - Are the data meaningful?
- Satellite Accounts (optional)
  - Factor use
  - Factor ownership
  - Energy use and emissions
  - …..
- Elasticities

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Experiments and Settings

- Explicit statement of experiments
  - Not ALL but those relevant to the presented results
    - It is often enough to note other experiments and provide details in appendices or on request
  - Experiments may NOT be exact replications of 'reality'
    - Easy for academic papers; tricky for policy reports
- Explicit statement of Macroeconomic and Market Clearing settings
  - Audiences need this information to interpret your results

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ANALYSES

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TABLES OF SUMMARY RESULTS

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Analyses

- Results derive from
  - Model – behaviours
  - Data – shares, elasticities, etc.
  - Shocks
- Know your
  - Data
  - Shocks
  - Model

Follow the behaviours and prices in the model

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Unexpected Results

- Results that are inconsistent with your and your 'bosses' priors can be difficult
  - Are the assumptions appropriate?
  - Are there errors in
    - Model
    - Data
    - Experiments?
  - Are your analyses right?

If NO errors, results can be very interesting

DIG, DIG, DIG!!!

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In retrospect everything coming out of mathematical models of economic systems is obvious. But getting to the insight that the results are obvious can be challenging.

Nonetheless, it is rewarding.
(source: GTAP PPT)

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Limitations

- Openly acknowledge the limitations of your analyses
  - There are assumptions in the model
  - You have made closure and market clearing decisions
  - There are limits to the accuracy of the data
    - NB: Some transactions may have very large error bounds but are included because they are known to exist but there is little information

Audiences often contain experts.
Not acknowledging the limitations just gives them an easy target (you!!)

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Sensitivity Analyses

- Report the results of your sensitivity analyses
  - Range of shocks
  - Macroeconomic closures
  - Market clearing
  - Elasticities
  - Parameters

If you do not, you will be challenged on your results and analyses.

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"If you can provide a study that does justice to what your audience knows already about the situation, and which also provides one clear insight that they didn't have already, then you are likely to make a 'sale'."

Robert McDougall

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The End

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