

Storytelling with simulations: Interactive ideas for teaching economic models

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Thursday 2 September, 14:10-14:55 BST

Stories are helpful pedagogical tools for transferring and retaining knowledge. Adding interactive elements to a narrative ('interactive storytelling') gives students greater agency over their learning, and this active construction of knowledge makes learning more effective and meaningful compared to passively receiving course material. The power of interactive storytelling is under-appreciated in economics, which often uses static presentation and technical explanations of complex mathematical concepts and models.

This workshop will demonstrate how simulations and interactive visualisation can enhance students' understanding of economic models and concepts, and provide meaningful learning experiences. The workshop will introduce participants to existing simulations and interactive data visualisations developed by CORE Economics (e.g. the COVID-19 virus transmission simulation and the global income distribution data visualisation). Participants will be shown examples of how they can be used in a variety of learning environments, including blended and online learning, or as in-class learning activities. Participants will also learn practical tips for designing their own simulations and ideas for incorporating simulations into their own teaching.

The workshop will be structured as a presentation, followed by Q&A and discussion. Participants are advised to have a device (laptop, tablet, or smartphone) on hand so they can try out the simulations for themselves.