Guidelines for presenting a paper in a seminar/workshop

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After attending numerous presentations in M2, Deeqa and PhD seminars, we have become aware that some guidelines are needed to explain what essential features are expected from a presentation. The idea is to make the presentation efficient, and to allocate time to the most important part of your work.

Our main advice is to address concisely the following issues in the first four or five slides.

When you already have results to present:

1) **What is your main result?**

   It should be in your first slide (should be in the title too!). Your main result should be the starting point of your presentation. This is the takeaway message. It should stick in people’s mind and everything in your presentation (and subsequent paper) should revolve around it.

2) **Why is it an important result?**

   a) Is it relevant for “economic policy”? Which policy? Why?
   b) Is it relevant for “economic science”? Which theory? Why?

   Your work may be relevant in one or more dimensions.

3) **Why is your result novel?**

   Explain how you work differs from previous work. Why have people not answered this question yet, or not in satisfying terms?

4) **Why is your result correct?**

   Give some intuition / results summary at the outset. You’ve got the whole presentation to give details.

   a) For theory, explain the main theoretical insight that enables you to solve the problem.
   b) For empirics, describe the essential economic fact that your structural model captures or the key feature of your identification strategy.
When you present a research proposal and you do not have results yet:

For preliminary work, focus on the question instead of the result, then on your potential idea for an answer or expected results. Gradually, as results come in, the presentation will slowly move to the previous structure.

1) **What is your goal? Which (one) question are you trying to answer?**
   
   It should be in your first slide (should be in the title too!).

2) **Why is it an important question?**
   a) Is it relevant for “economic policy”? Which policy? Why?
   b) Is it relevant for “economic science”? Which theory? Why?

   Your work may be relevant in one or more dimensions.

3) **Why is your work novel?**

   Explain how you work differs from previous work. Why have people not answered this question yet, or not in satisfying terms?

4) **What is your idea for an answer? Why is your idea correct?**
   a) For theory, explain the main theoretical insight that you think will enable you to solve the problem.
   b) For empirics, describe the essential economic fact that your structural model tries to captures or the identification strategy that you are going to try.