

# AN INTRODUCTION TO DIRECTED ACYCLIC GRAPHS

Do smaller class sizes improve student learning? Does raising the minimum wage increase unemployment? Does teen motherhood cause poverty? Important policy questions like these are fundamentally about causality, and to answer them we need to move beyond “correlation isn’t causation” and figure out when it is. Professor Scott Cunningham will introduce students and faculty to directed acyclic graphs (DAGs), a powerful graphical tool that helps clarify the relationships between variables and guide theory-based research design decisions. No prior experience with DAGs is assumed.



**Scott Cunningham**

is an applied microeconomist who studies mental health, sex work, drug, and abortion policy. He is a professor of economics at Baylor, the author of *Causal Inference: The Mixtape*, and editor of the *Handbook of the Economics of Prostitution*. He lives in Waco Texas with his three children.

**March 16  
4:00 PM to 5:15 PM**

**Register at  
[go/dags](https://go.dags)**