



Universität Hamburg

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Fachbereich VWL / Department of Economics

EconNewsletter

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APRIL 25 – APRIL 29, 2016

NEWSLETTER 2016-8

SEMINAR CALENDAR

HCHE Research Seminar

Dr. Bettina Siflinger, Universität Mannheim:

The Effects of a Universal Child Care Reform on Child Health
- Evidence from Sweden

Monday April 25

16:30-18:00

R. 4011 (Esplanade 36)

Forschungsseminar “Quantitative Wirtschaftsforschung“

Zeno Enders, Universität Heidelberg:

Growth expectations, undue optimism, and short-run fluctuations

Tuesday April 26

12:15–13:45

R. 0029 (VMP 5)

Research Seminar “Microeconomics”

Anja Schöttner, HU Berlin:

Delegation of Decision-Making Authority and Incentives
- Complements or Substitutes?

Thursday April 28

17:00–19:00

R. 0029 (VMP 5)

Research Seminar “Labour Economics”

- no seminar -

PhD Seminar

- no seminar -

ABSTRACTS

HCHE Research Seminar

Dr. Bettina Siflinger, Universität Mannheim:

The Effects of a Universal Child Care Reform on Child Health - Evidence from Sweden

Abstract:

This paper studies the effect of a Swedish universal child care reform on child health outcomes. We draw on a unique set of merged population register data from the province of Skåne, following over the period 1999-2008. It contains merged information at the individual level from the population register, the income tax register, the medical birth register and the inpatient and outpatient registers. The outpatient register contains all ambulatory care contacts including all contacts with physicians and therapists. Visits are recorded by day, and diagnoses are recorded for each visit. Our identification strategy relies on a sibling sample design that allows to compare the impact of the reform across siblings within households. Despite exploiting a rather general measure of the reform impact, we additionally make use of detailed information on household-specific monthly child care fee. Our results suggest that children being fully affected by the reform have better physical health at ages 4–5 and 6–7, are significantly better off in development and psychological conditions at age 6–7. These effects are particularly distinct for children from low income families, being in line with the literature on early child interventions. Changes in child care prices also predict better physical health for younger children. The results are mainly driven by two mechanisms, a crowding out effect of informal care and an income effect, and are strongly supported by the so called hygiene hypothesis. The findings imply that child care prices play a crucial role in the provision of universal child care.

Forschungsseminar “Quantitative Wirtschaftsforschung“

Zeno Enders, Universität Heidelberg:

Growth expectations, undue optimism, and short-run fluctuations

Abstract:

Expectations matter for economic activity. To the extent that they are fundamentally unwarranted, they represent "undue optimism or pessimism" (Pigou, 1927). In this paper, we identify empirically the effect of undue optimism/pessimism ("optimism shocks") on economic activity. In a first step, we compute an expectation error regarding current economic activity: the difference of the Ifo index of economic activity and its consensus forecast, compiled simultaneously and independently. The resulting "Ifo innovations" may represent either fundamental innovations or optimism shocks. In a second step, we impose long-run restrictions on a VAR model to disentangle the effects of both shocks. We find that optimism shocks - in line with theory - reduce Ifo innovations, but raise economic activity. They account for up to 30% of short-run fluctuations in industrial production.

ACTIVITIES OF DEPARTMENT MEMBERS

New Publications

- Ahlfeldt, G., Maennig, W. (2015): *Homevoters vs. leasevoters: A spatial analysis of airport effects*, Journal of Urban Economics, 87, 85–99.

Miscellaneous

- Wir begrüßen Frau Viola van Rienen, die am 01.04.2016 eine Stelle als wissenschaftliche Mitarbeiterin mit dem Ziel der Promotion angetreten hat (Claussen-Simon-Professur, Raum 2126, VMP 5).

The next EconNewsletter will be published on Monday, May 2, 2016.

Editorial deadline: Friday, April 29, 2016.

EconNewsletter

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