



Fachbereich VWL / Department of Economics

# EconNewsletter

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NOVEMBER 6 – NOVEMBER 10, 2023

NEWSLETTER 2023-22

## SEMINAR CALENDAR

### HCHE Research Seminar

[Alex Chan, Harvard Business School:](#)

*Diversity and discrimination in healthcare*

Monday November 6  
16:30-18:00  
Esplanade 36, R. 4011/13

### Labour Economics

[Marie Elina Paul, University of Duisburg-Essen:](#)

*Health Effects of Motherhood and the Impact of Family Policies*

Thursday November 9  
14:30–16:00  
Esplanade 36, R. 4011/13

### Microeconomics Seminar

[Christoph Kuzmics, University of Graz:](#)

*An Ellsberg paradox for ambiguity aversion*

Thursday November 9  
17:00–18:30  
R. 0079 (VMP 5)

## ABSTRACTS

### **Labour Economics**

Marie Elina Paul, University of Duisburg-Essen:

*Health Effects of Motherhood and the Impact of Family Policies*

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*Abstract:*

The transition to motherhood is a vulnerable period for female health, with an increased risk for physical and mental disorders and the potential emergence of chronic diseases. Using claims data from the German Pharmacoepidemiological Research Database (GePaRD), we investigate stress-related diagnoses and prescriptions, as well as healthcare utilization within two years before and four years after entering motherhood. For most diagnoses and prescriptions, we find a v-shaped pattern around delivery with an almost linear increase after delivery. Netting out age and time effects, prescriptions of painkillers, antidepressants, antibiotics and sleeping pills as well as diagnoses of obesity and back pain exceed pre-birth levels four years after delivery. Moreover, preliminary results suggest that the provision of institutional childcare is related to a strong short-run increase in diagnosed maternal respiratory diseases and a smaller increase in the prescription of painkillers, while most other estimated effects are small. Low educated mothers receive more diagnoses of depression and other mental illnesses in the presence of additional childcare, while medium educated mothers have a higher probability to be diagnosed with headache. The effect on psychotherapy is negative for highly educated mothers, especially in the longer run. Obesity is a rare diagnosis in claims data but seems to be positively associated with childcare provision.

### **Microeconomics Seminar**

Christoph Kuzmics, University of Graz:

*An Ellsberg paradox for ambiguity aversion*

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*Abstract:*

The 1961 Ellsberg paradox is typically seen as an empirical challenge to the subjective expected utility framework. Experiments based on Ellsberg's design have spawned a variety of new approaches, culminating in a new paradigm represented by, now classical, models of ambiguity aversion. We design and implement a decision-theoretic lab experiment that is extremely close to the original Ellsberg design and in which, empirically, subjects make choices very similar to those in the Ellsberg experiments. In our environment, however, these choices cannot be rationalized by any of the classical models of ambiguity aversion.

*The next EconNewsletter will be published on Monday, November 13, 2023.*

*Editorial deadline: Friday, November 10, 2023.*

**EconNewsletter**

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