



Fachbereich VWL / Department of Economics

EconNewsletter

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JUNE 17 – JUNE 21, 2024

NEWSLETTER 2024-15

SEMINAR CALENDAR

Quantitative Economics

[Christian Pröbsting, KU Leuven:](#)

Labor Mobility and the Level of Unemployment in a Currency Union

Tuesday June 18

12:15–13:30

R. 0079 (VMP 5)

Environmental and Development Economics

[Lassi Ahlvik, University of Helsinki:](#)

Pigouvian Income Taxation

Wednesday June 19

12:15–13:45

R. 0079 (VMP 5)

Hamburg Lectures in Law and Economics

[Christian Bjørnskov, Aarhus University:](#)

Freedom of Expression and Social Conflict

Wednesday June 19

18:15–19:45

R. 1083a (VMP 5)

This seminar is held in a hybrid format. To register for online participation via Zoom please click the following [link](#) and fill in the necessary information or send an email to lectures-ile@uni-hamburg.de.

Labour Economics Seminar

[Christian Zimpelmann, Forschungsinstitut zur Zukunft der Arbeit \(IZA\):](#)

How Gender Role Attitudes Shape Maternal Labor Supply

Thursday June 20

14.30–16:00

Esplanade 36, R. 4030/31

Interdisciplinary Research Seminar

[Thomas Blanchard, University of Cologne:](#)

Can Collectives Be Morally Responsible?

Thursday June 20

17:15–18:45

R. 0079 (VMP 5)

ABSTRACTS

Quantitative Economics

Christian Pröbsting, KU Leuven:

Labor Mobility and the Level of Unemployment in a Currency Union

Abstract:

Unemployment rates are substantially higher and more volatile in the euro area relative to the United States. We ask to what extent the lack of cross-country labor mobility can account for unemployment dynamics in Europe. Our analytical model incorporates frictions in the labor market as well as an endogenous migration decision. Firms are unable to freely adjust wages during economic contractions, generating an asymmetric distribution of unemployment over the business cycle. The model is calibrated to the dynamics of unemployment and net migration in a typical euro area country. An increase in labor mobility to that observed in the United States and holding all other parameters fixed would reduce both the level and the volatility of euro area unemployment. The welfare cost to a typical euro area country of the currency union is 5 percent of permanent consumption; increasing labor mobility reduces this cost to just under 4 percent.

Environmental and Development Economics

Lassi Ahlvik, University of Helsinki:

Pigouvian Income Taxation

Abstract:

This paper develops a mechanism design approach to study externalities and redistribution. The mechanism screens individuals' social weights to strike a balance among broad distributional objectives, incentives to work, and incentives to reduce externalities. The welfare-optimal allocation can be decentralized through income taxation, defining income-dependent externality payments. Two applications use individual-level administrative data on incomes, pollution measures, and financial burdens to demonstrate how population characteristics shape the optimal policy on carbon emissions.

Labour Economics Seminar

Christian Zimpelmann, Forschungsinstitut zur Zukunft der Arbeit (IZA):

How Gender Role Attitudes Shape Maternal Labor Supply

Abstract:

We examine the influence of gender role attitudes, specifically views about the appropriate role of mothers, on post-childbirth employment decisions – a major driver of gender inequality in the labor market. German panel data reveals that mothers with traditional attitudes are 15% less likely to work during early motherhood than their egalitarian counterparts. Differences also emerge at the intensive margin and are persistent for at least seven years. Fathers' attitudes also predict maternal labor supply, highlighting joint decision-making within couples. Examining the interaction of attitudes with policies, we find that the introduction of a cash-for-care payment for parents who abstain from using public childcare substantially reduced the labor supply of traditional mothers, whereas egalitarian mothers' labor supply remained unaffected. To examine counterfactual policy changes, we estimate a dynamic model of female labor supply that incorporates human capital accumulation and, as a novel feature, heterogeneity by gender attitudes. Labor supply elasticities are substantially larger for traditional mothers, while a policy facilitating full-time childcare access has a more pronounced effect on egalitarian mothers. Our findings stress that gender role attitudes moderate the impact of policies, which implies that measured average policy effects depend on the distribution of attitudes and, hence, cannot easily be transferred over time or to other countries.

Interdisciplinary Research Seminar

Thomas Blanchard, University of Cologne:

Can Collectives Be Morally Responsible?

Abstract:

The idea that certain highly integrated social groups can be morally responsible for what they do in a non-redundant way – i.e. in a way that does not reduce to the moral responsibility of their members – has recently gained popularity among philosophers interested in group agency and collective responsibility. In this talk I will attempt to push back against this thesis. After critically reviewing some key arguments in its favor, I will sketch an argument against it that draws on discussions of the “manipulation argument” against source compatibilist accounts of free will. The general idea of the argument I will present is that because mental attitudes of social groups are controlled by those of their members, group attitudes lack a certain kind of autonomy required for moral responsibility.

The next EconNewsletter will be published on Monday, June 24, 2024.

Editorial deadline: Friday, June 21, 2024.

EconNewsletter

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