



Fachbereich VWL / Department of Economics

EconNewsletter

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JANUARY 13 – JANUARY 17, 2025

NEWSLETTER 2025-2

SEMINAR CALENDAR

HCHE Research Seminar

[Benjamin Ukert, Texas A&M University:](#)

The impact of hospital closures on hospital admission and the impact on nearby surviving hospitals

Monday January 13
16:30-17:45
Esplanade 36, R. 4011/13

Quantitative Economics

[Jan-Oliver Menz, Bundesbank:](#)

Analysing the Euro Area Inflation Surge – Micro and Macro Evidence

Tuesday January 14
12:15–13:30
R. 0079 (VMP 5)

Hamburg Lectures in Law and Economics

[Michael Berlemann, HWWI:](#)

Make it Burn? Wildfires, Disaster Aid and Presidential Approval

Wednesday January 15
18:15–19:45
R. 223 (ILE)
Alsterterrasse 1

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

[Frank Walsh, University College Dublin:](#)

Measuring the bite of the minimum wage

Thursday January 16
14:30-16:00
Esplanade 36, R. 4011/13

Interdisciplinary Research Seminar

[Laura Seelkopf, LMU:](#)

Maximize Power: Online Panels and the Price-Quality Trade-Off

Thursday January 16
17:15–18:45
R. 0079 (VMP 5)

ABSTRACTS

HCHE Research Seminar

Benjamin Ukert, Texas A&M University:

The impact of hospital closures on hospital admission and the impact on nearby surviving hospitals

Abstract:

This paper aims to quantify the impacts of hospital closures on utilization and access to care for patients and competing hospitals. We use the universe of Texas discharge data from 2006 to 2020 which include inpatient stays from all payors (uninsured, Medicare, Medicaid, and commercial), as well as inpatient diagnosis and sociodemographic characteristics (such as age, gender, and the residence's zip code). We find that hospital closures increase travel distance by 17% in rural areas, and has much smaller effects for closures with nearby hospitals. Rural hospital closures decrease the number of patients with an inpatient stay by 16%. Analyses for surviving nearby hospitals displays increase in hospital volume, which are especially pronounced for more urban closures. Rural closures negatively affect the payor mix, with nearby hospitals treating a larger share of uninsured individuals.

Hamburg Lectures in Law and Economics

Michael Berlemann, HWWI:

Make it Burn? Wildfires, Disaster Aid and Presidential Approval

Abstract:

For governments, the occurrence of natural disasters creates the opportunity to demonstrate their willingness and competence in providing prompt and efficient disaster aid. A number of studies has investigated the political consequences of providing disaster aid by analyzing the effects of such aid on subsequent election results. However, the findings of these studies have not yielded a coherent picture. This paper makes a contribution to the existing literature by employing high-frequency survey data on presidential approval. The combination of this data with wildfire data and information on Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) aid approvals and denials reveals that Barack Obama gained in support among (potential) voters for whom FEMA aid was approved by the president, while he was not punished for denials of FEMA assistance. We show that this effect is exclusively driven by voters without party affiliation and that the effect is temporary.

Interdisciplinary Research Seminar

Laura Seelkopf, LMU:

Maximize Power: Online Panels and the Price-Quality Trade-Off

Abstract:

Survey-experimental research with online access panels of marketing research companies has increased markedly in the social sciences. These allow for fast access to quota-representative samples, which promise generalizable claims combined with causal inference. When selecting among companies researchers are confronted with a large price range – where high-price companies advocate their services as higher quality with respect to respondent attentiveness, honesty, and representativity along non-quota characteristics. Hence, researchers face a potential trade-off between sample quality and the statistical power their research budget can buy. Our study offers insights into this trade-off for the largest European economy. We asked all marketing companies competing on the German market to offer bids for scientific survey experimental research. Selecting three companies with a low, medium, and high price, and corresponding self-reported low, medium, and high panel quality, we fielded identical vignette, priming, and conjoint experiments to these three quota-representative samples, together with standard socio-demographic and attitudinal questions relevant to research in political behavior. Our evidence suggests that at least for experimental designs, the price-quality trade-off is less severe than often assumed. We thus recommend maximizing statistical power by minimizing costs per respondent.

ACTIVITIES OF DEPARTMENT MEMBERS

Miscellaneous

- This semester, the **PhD seminar** takes place as a block seminar on Friday, January 17. The idea is to foster interaction between PhD students and faculty and have a day with active discussions. The seminar runs from 9am until 4pm. In case you cannot attend all talks, feel free to join for the sessions that you are available. For more information (and abstracts) see <https://www.wiso.uni-hamburg.de/fachbereich-vwl/forschung/forschungsseminare/doktorandenseminar.html>

The next EconNewsletter will be published on Monday, January 20, 2025.

Editorial deadline: Friday, January 17, 2025.

EconNewsletter

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