



**ESPE
2024**

ABSTRACT BOOKLET



**The 37th Annual European Society for
Population Economics Conference**

27 June - 29 June, 2024

Contents

List of Participants	11
ID3 - Language Training, Refugees' Healthcare Integration, and the Next Generation's Health	19
ID5 - Labor Market Competition and Inequality.....	20
ID6 - Transaction Cost (Reductions) in Economic Interactions	21
ID8 - Following in the family footsteps: Incidence and returns of occupational persistence	22
ID11 - Forced displacement and occupational mobility: a skills-based approach	23
ID12 - Beliefs about the Gender Pension Gap	24
ID13 - Do partially disabled people respond to financial incentives to work?	25
ID15 - Pre-school Enrollment and Mothers' Labour Supply: Evidence from Europe	26
ID17 - Just Another Cog in the Machine? A Worker-Level View of Robotization and Tasks	27
ID19 - Equal Justice Under Law? Local Justice Quality and Crimes	28
ID26 - From homemakers to breadwinners? How mandatory kindergarten affects maternal labour market outcomes.....	29
ID27 - Instrument-based estimation of full treatment effects with movers.....	30
ID29 - The heritability of economic preferences	31
ID30 - Product of our Environment? Place Effects on Body Mass Index in Australia	32
ID33 - Social capital and vaccination compliance: Evidence from Italy	33
ID35 - The effect of childcare subsidies for young children on mothers' fertility decisions and labor market outcomes: A natural experiment from Spain	34
ID36 - School closures, parental labor supply, and time use	35
ID38 - Do Commuting Subsidies Drive Workers to Better Firms?.....	36
ID44 - Firm Consolidation and Labor Market Outcomes	37
ID49 - Competing for Equality: Understanding the Gender Gap in International Piano Competitions from 1890-1990	38
ID50 - Brothers, Sisters, and Support to Older Parents: Separate Spheres Across and Within Support Types?	39
ID60 - Graying and staying on the job: The welfare implications of employment protection for older workers	40
ID61 - The Impact of Local Pollution Exposure on Hospital Admissions: The Case of Portugal	41
ID62 - International Teacher Effects in Higher Education	42
ID70 - The Long-Term Impact of Parental Migration on the Health of Young Left-Behind Children.....	43
ID71 - Poor rich women? Labour market effects of de-subsidising childcare for high-income mothers	44
ID76 - Transmission of Gender Norms and Women's Labor Force Participation over Time	45
ID78 - Fortunate Families? The Effects of Wealth on Marriage and Fertility.....	46
ID81 - Work against Gender Violence: The Effect of Employment Incentives to Victims Hosted by Anti-Violence Centers.....	47
ID83 - Parental Leave, Worker Substitutability, and Firms' Employment	48
ID85 - Mind the (Gender Pay) Gap: The role of Board Gender Composition	49
ID89 - Universal free school meals and children's educational attainment: Impacts and mechanisms	50
ID94 - The effect of broadband internet on mental health.....	51
ID95 - Feed the children	52
ID96 - Migration and natives' inequality: evidence from Italian local labour markets	53
ID97 - Time allocation of daughters-in-law and mothers-in-law in India: The role of education as bargaining power	54

ID98 - “This time it’s different” Generative Artificial Intelligence and Occupational Choice	55
ID105 - Parental Leave Intentions, Gender, and Job Discrimination: Insights from a Swedish Field Experiment	56
ID106 - TEMPORARY EMPLOYMENT, FERTILITY AND HEALTH AT BIRTH	57
ID110 - Short-Term Events, Long-Term Friends? Freshman Orientation Peers and Academic Performance	58
ID111 - Delayed Retirement: Effects on Health and Healthcare Utilization	59
ID113 - Evaluating the Performance of Performance Standards in Higher Education	60
ID117 - The impact of terrorism at the municipality level in Colombia: A new difference-in-differences approach	61
ID118 - Kinder, Küche, Kirche - Family policies and fertility in the Third Reich.	62
ID122 - Consequences of Rapid Structural Change - Evidence from Hydropower Expansions	63
ID128 - Shouldering the Weight of Climate Change: Intra-household Resource Allocation after Rainfall Shocks	64
ID129 - Service Jobs and Education - Evidence from Tourism Shocks in Italy	65
ID130 - Resilience to Automation: The Role of Task Overlap for Job Finding	66
ID132 - The effect of motherhood timing on earnings at midlife in the UK	67
ID134 - Do women fare worse when men are around? Quasi-experimental evidence	68
ID135 - Multigenerational Effects of Smallpox Vaccination	69
ID136 - Does a flexible parental leave system stimulate maternal employment?	70
ID137 - Lost in the Net? Broadband Internet and Youth Mental Health	71
ID138 - Does School Social Work Work? Evidence from Crime and Education	72
ID140 - Pro-immigrant legislation and financial inclusion: The effects of sanctuary policies on the mortgage market	73
ID141 - US Families’ Changing Responses to College Costs: Less Borrowing, More Co-residence*	74
ID144 - The Impact of Early Public Childcare on Child Penalties	75
ID145 - Time or Money? Togetherness and Intrahousehold Allocation.	76
ID147 - Dynamics in Employment and Income Before and After Transgender Transitioning: Evidence from Dutch Administrative Data	77
ID148 - Men first. Gender differences in career speeds in Italian academia	78
ID149 - In-Person Schooling and Juvenile Violence	79
ID150 - The Industrial Robotics Revolution and Crime: New Evidence from Automation Shocks	80
ID155 - “Can Public Policies Break the Gender Mold? Evidence from Paternity Leave Reforms in Six Countries”	81
ID156 - Hiring subsidies and temporary work agencies	82
ID158 - Planning Better: Unplanned Pregnancies, Parental Investments, and Newborn Outcomes	83
ID159 - Expected Gender Differences in Exit and Voice - Evidence from a Factorial Survey Experiment among Employees in German Firms	84
ID160 - Wealth Formation among Siblings in Germany: The Importance of Demography and Family Socioeconomic Status	85
ID161 - Inherited Gender Norms and Cognitive Functioning in Later Life: An Analysis of Second-Generation Immigrants	86
ID164 - Heat Stress and Labor Market Inequality	87
ID165 - The agglomeration effect: The role of intangible intensive industries	88
ID166 - Adversarial economic preferences predict right-wing voting	89
ID168 - Keeping Up with the Computers: How Vocational Training Responds to New Technology	90

ID169 - Postponement, career development and fertility rebound.....	91
ID171 - School starting age and educational mismatch	92
ID173 - How Selectivity Shapes Selection	93
ID175 - Can resources alter the development path of a low birth weight child?.....	94
ID176 - Job Loss and the Distributional Effects of Self-Employment Spells.....	95
ID177 - The Causal Impact of Maternal Educational Curricula on Infant Health at Birth	96
ID179 - Can Paid Family Leave impact Abortion Rates? Evidence from New York	97
ID181 - Family Stress and the Intergenerational Correlation in Self-Control	98
ID183 - COVID-19, Crises and Women's Control of Resources: Evidence from Mexico	99
ID187 - Children's Time Allocation and the Socioeconomic Gap in Human Capital	100
ID188 - Stable marriage, household consumption and unobserved match quality	101
ID190 - Health Shocks, Social Insurance, and Firms	102
ID191 - Childcare and maternal mental health	103
ID193 - Returns to Tertiary Vocational Education in Italy.....	104
ID194 - Beyond the War on Drugs: Portugal's Drug Decriminalization and the Retornados Migration	105
ID197 - Educational attainment and fertility: Do genetic endowments matter?.....	106
ID199 - The impact of Short-time work during the Great Recession in Belgium.....	107
ID200 - Persistent Effects of Social Program Participation on the Third Generation	108
ID204 - Left over or opting out? Squeeze, mismatch and surplus in Chinese marriage markets	109
ID207 - Impacts of mothers' time on children's diets	110
ID208 - Unpacking Parental Leave: The Role of Job Protection	111
ID209 - Born at the right time: Examining the impact of relative age on mental health in adulthood	112
ID210 - Unlocking Female Potential: How Parttime Work Transformed the (Dutch) Labor Market.....	113
ID214 - How did de-unionization impact the German structure of earnings? A distributional approach using grouped quantile regressions	114
ID218 - Effects of Increasing Disability Benefits on Employment, Earnings, and Mortality	115
ID220 - Childhood Mental Health Effects of Early-Life Exposure to Paternal Job Loss.....	116
ID221 - How Important are Mental and Physical Health in Career and Family Choices?.....	117
ID223 - Segregated Welfare: The Effects of Federal Public Housing	118
ID228 - Delayed Childbearing and Urban Revival: A Structural Approach	119
ID229 - Too much of a good thing? The macro implications of excessive firm entry.....	120
ID231 - The Social Multiplier of Pension Reform	121
ID233 - Gender Diversity in Research	122
ID234 - The Long-Term Effects of Military Occupations: Evidence from Post-World War II Austria	123
ID236 - Breaking Barriers: The Impacts of Employer Exposure to Immigrants	124
ID237 - Workplace Peer Effects in Fertility Decisions.....	125
ID238 - German Firms' Responses to Trade Shocks from the East	126
ID239 - Demographic and Political Transitions	127
ID241 - Bounding the Child Penalty	128
ID244 - Long-Run Effects of Technological Change: The Impact of Automation and Robots on Intergenerational Mobility	129
ID246 - Making the Right Call: The Heterogeneous Effects of Individual Performance Pay on Productivity ..	130
ID247 - Cohabiting, Childbirth and Child Human Capital	131
ID248 - Geographical Mobility as a Bridge to Opportunity:Evidence from the Spanish Military Service	132

ID249 - School Closures and Parental Labor Supply: Differential Effects of Anticipated and Unanticipated Closures	133
ID251 - The Effect of Interracial Peers on Political Preferences: Evidence from Longitudinal Data from Schools in the United States.....	134
ID252 - Residual Mortgage Debt, NHG Insurance, and Defaults in the Netherlands	135
ID253 - Parental Leave from the Firm's Perspective	136
ID256 - Who Benefits from University Openings?	137
ID258 - Household Decisions and the Gender Gap in Job Satisfaction	138
ID259 - The Effect on Employment of a Diabetes Screening: the Dutch Case of Lifelines.....	139
ID263 - Innocuous Exam Features? The Impact of Answer Placement on High-Stakes Test Performance and College Admissions	140
ID265 - Understanding the Impact of Covid-19 Short-Time Work Schemes in a Segmented Labor Market ...	141
ID266 - Skills trainings and Bayesian learning: A multisite randomized controlled trial in Ghana	142
ID268 - Education, gender, and family formation	143
ID269 - The impact of parents' health shocks on children's health behaviors	144
ID275 - The effects of school accountability measures for low performing schools: Evidence from a regression discontinuity design	145
ID277 - The Long-Term Effects of a Targeted Early-Childhood Intervention on Family Outcomes: A 20-Year Follow-Up of a Randomised Controlled Trial	146
ID280 - Changing the Marriage Contract along the Way: Anticipatory effects of Survivor Insurance on Divorce & Labour Supply	147
ID284 - Feedback, Overconfidence and Job Search Behavior.....	148
ID286 - Impacts of paternity leave reform: exploring seasonality and heterogeneity in fathers' uptake of parental leave	149
ID288 - Air Pollution and the Housing Market: Evidence from Germany's Low Emission Zones.....	150
ID289 - Gender gaps in high-stakes teacher assessments.....	151
ID294 - Measuring Present Bias in Choices over Food and Money: Evidence from a Framed Field Experiment	152
ID297 - Why bother when no one is watching? Gender-specific responses to a supportive observer - evidence from a natural experiment	153
ID298 - Unpacking Self-Regulated Study Behaviour and Learning Outcomes for Learners in Kenya using Survey and EdTech Data.....	154
ID299 - Women in Political Power and School Closure During Covid Times.....	155
ID300 - Work from Home, Eat near Home?: The Reshaping Geography of Local Service Firms.....	156
ID302 - Building Health across Generations: Unraveling the Impact of Early Childcare on Maternal Health.	157
ID303 - Advising Job Seekers in Occupations with Poor Prospects: A Field Experiment.....	158
ID306 - Migrant motherhood penalty in Germany	159
ID307 - Sick of Robots - heterogeneous effects of industrial robots on sickness absence	160
ID311 - Starting School and ADHD: When Is It Time to Fly the Nest?.....	161
ID313 - Child penalties and the gender gap in home production and the labor market	162
ID314 - The Effect of Transitory Health Shocks on Schooling Outcomes: The case of dengue fever in Brazil .	163
ID317 - Child Penalties in Labour Market Skills	164
ID319 - Paternity Leave and Child Outcomes.....	165
ID323 - The interactions of Local and Displaced Populations	166
ID324 - Education and Ethnic Intermarriage: Evidence from Higher Education Expansion in Indonesia	167

ID325 - What Do Kids Learn from Exams?.....	168
ID327 - Drivers of Past and Future Labor Supply Growth in The Netherlands	169
ID328 - Time to grow up: the distributional effect of parental leave policies on fertility and child human capital	170
ID333 - Gender and Performance in White-Collar Teams: Evidence From Students	171
ID337 - Gender Gap in Reported Childcare Preferences among Parents	172
ID339 - Racial Discrimination in the Labour Market of English Football Managers.....	173
ID343 - Gender Imbalance, Migration and Intra-Household Bargaining	174
ID344 - Gender-role identity in adolescence and women fertility in adulthood.	175
ID345 - Venezuelan immigration in Colombia: labor market dynamics.....	176
ID346 - The adverse effects of weight reports in schools	177
ID353 - Effect of Initial Location Assignment on Health of Asylum Seekers.....	178
ID357 - Affirmative Action during Early Childhood: School Choice, Academic Performance and School Satisfaction*	179
ID358 - Skilled Immigration and Technology Upgrades as Exports Boosters	180
ID361 - The (Pandemic) Effects of Short-Time Work: Evidence from Germany	181
ID365 – Motherhood and Domestic Violence: Longitudinal Study Using Population-Wide Administrative Data	182
ID367 - Dynastic human capital, ethnic capital, and intergenerational mobility	183
ID368 - The Impact of Firms on the Relative Pay of Women Across Countries.....	184
ID371 - University fees, subsidies and field of study	185
ID372 - The Anatomy of U.S. Sick Leave Schemes: Evidence from Public School Teachers	186
ID373- Evaluating the effect of a drastic cut in unemployment benefit duration on re-employment and wages of jobseekers	187
ID375 - Discrimination in grading? Evidence on teachers' evaluation bias towards minority students.....	188
ID376 - Crime and Punishment Order: Prosecutorial Discretion and Discrimination	189
ID377 - The Effects of Layoffs on Opioid Use and Abuse	190
ID378 - A green wage premium?.....	191
ID379 - To Veil or Not to Veil? Assessing the Removal of Headscarf Ban a Muslim Country	192
ID382 - Gender Diversity and Diversity of Ideas	193
ID383 - Robots Replacing Trade Unions: Novel Data and Evidence from Western Europe	194
ID384 - Causal Effect of Education on Women's Labor Supply and Wages: Evidence from Turkey's Recent Higher Education Policy	195
ID386 - Employment protection, job insecurity, and job mobility.....	196
ID392 - A Library in the Palm of your Hand? A Reading Intervention with Low-Income Children	197
ID394 - Daddy's Duties? Daycare Expansions, Paternity Leave and Fathers' Involvement in Childcare	198
ID398 - Violent hate crimes and immigrants' social identity: Evidence from the San Gennaro's massacre ...	199
ID400 - Rebalancing power asymmetries within firms: Evidence from illegal resignations	200
ID401 – Mass shootings and violent crime: The effect of subjective safety beliefs on health behavior	201
ID402 - Too Hot to Handle: Effects of 35 °C Work Stoppage on Construction Workers' Health.....	202
ID404 - College Students' Coworker Networks and Labor Market Entry.....	203
ID407 - Evolution and Welfare Implications of Racial Sorting in the US Marriage Market	204
ID409 - The impact of special education on students with special needs	205
ID412 - Parent Beliefs and Parent Investments	206
ID413 - Having it all? Broadband technology and the growing divide between high and low skilled women	207

ID417 - Pension Caregiver Credits and the Gender Gap in Old-Age Income	208
ID419 - Benefits and Drawbacks of Anticipating Job Loss	209
ID422 - How temperature on test dates influences primary school students' performance.....	210
ID423 - Cash Transfers and Fertility: From Short to Long Run.....	211
ID425 - Increasing retirement age and mental health of older workers: the role of working conditions	212
ID426 - Local Media Reports about Sexual Crimes and Judicial Outcomes in India	213
ID427 - Employment Booms and Infant Health: Evidence from the Ready-Made Garment Sector in Bangladesh	214
ID428 - Eliciting and Shaping Beliefs About Shared Parental Leave.....	215
ID430 - Timing of school entry and personality traits in adulthood.....	216
ID437 - Gender equality norms among generations:Evidence from a representative sample	217
ID440 - The Effect of the End of Hiring Incentives on Job and Employment Security	218
ID443 - Career Blocker	219
ID445 - The impact of childhood inter-ethnic contact on hiring decisions	220
ID446 - Retargeting of anti-poverty programs and intimate partner violence	221
ID449 - Choking upon Facing (Fe)male Opponents? Evidence from Debate Tournaments.....	222
ID450 - Classroom rank in math and career choices	223
ID452 - Return-to-Work Policies for Disability Insurance Recipients: The Role of Financial Incentives.....	224
ID453 - The Long-Run Impact of Increasing School Funding on Educational and Labor Market Outcomes ...	225
ID454 - Compulsory Military Service and Health in the GDR	226
ID456 - Prison Break: Rehabilitation Programs, Recidivism, and Labor Market Outcomes	227
ID458 - Minimum Wages and Low Wage Workers: Compliance as non-employment margin.....	228
ID462 - Does the Share of Female Judges Assigned to Supreme Court Cases Affect Trial Outcomes?	229
ID463 - Safer in School? Compulsory Schooling Reduces Maltreatment and Associated Harms.....	230
ID471 - The Ambivalence about Pregnancy: Expectations and Preferences	231
ID472 - The Role of Public Space: Libraries and Racial Inequality in Education	232
ID477 - Sources of Regional Variation in Intergenerational Mobility	233
ID478 - Social desirability bias in attitudes towards sexism and DEI policies in the workplace	234
ID479 - New home, Old neighbors? Ethnic Enclaves and Refugees' Education Outcomes	235
ID480 - Impact of Generative AI Information on Vocational College Students' Career Preferences: a Randomized Controlled Trial.....	236
ID481 - Monopsony: wages and job requirements	237
ID482 - Subsidised school meals and children educational achievement: the case of Barcelona.....	238
ID483 - The Incentive Effects of Sickness Benefit for the Unemployed -- Analysis of a Reduction in Potential Benefit Duration	239
ID489 - Fathers' parental leave take-up and gender composition of the workplace.....	240
ID492 - Conflict and Skill-Specific Migration - Evidence from the War on Drugs in Mexico.....	241
ID493 - Sexual Violence and Reproductive Coercion in India	242
ID494 - Sheepskin effects and heterogenous wage-setting behaviour	243
ID497 - Breaking Free from Traditional Gender Roles: Post-Schooling Impacts of Enhanced Opportunities for Immigrant Women.....	244
ID502 - Intergenerational earnings mobility of first-generation Scandinavians.....	245
ID504 - Labor Demand and Workforce Diversity: Evidence from Two Natural Experiments	246
ID505 - Estimating the Returns to Occupational Licensing: Evidence from Regression Discontinuities at the Bar Exam.....	247

<i>ID509 - Beaming Tutors into Students' Homes? An Online Tutoring Intervention with Low-Performing Students</i>	248
<i>ID510 - Land Acquisition and Sectoral Composition: Evidence from India</i>	249
<i>ID511 - The Production of Meaningful Work</i>	250
<i>ID518 - The Spillover Effects of Maternity Leave Extensions on Unemployment Insurance</i>	251
<i>ID520 - Effects of In-Person Therapy and Long Treatment Waiting Lists: Evidence from a Randomized Controlled Trial Implemented in Denmark</i>	252
<i>ID521 - Unemployment Insurance with Response Heterogeneity</i>	253
<i>ID523 - The Effect of Online Learning Mandates on Students' Academic Performance in Italy</i>	254
<i>ID524 - Trends in Adolescents' Social Relationships with Peers and Teachers before, during and after COVID-19</i>	255
<i>ID526 - Understanding the non-take up of the Italian Minimum Income Scheme</i>	256
<i>ID528 - Earnings Dynamics and Selection in Health Insurance Markets</i>	257
<i>ID529 - The French Colorblind Approach to Discrimination and Inequality</i>	258
<i>ID533 - Automation adoption and reorganization of tasks</i>	259
<i>ID536 - Systemic Discrimination in Firing</i>	260
<i>ID539 - Free Textbooks and Females' Long-term Outcomes: Evidence from Turkey</i>	261
<i>ID541 - The effects of free school meals on student achievements in the Netherlands</i>	262
<i>ID542 - The Economic Costs of Rape</i>	263
<i>ID543 - The Impact of Strenuous Working Conditions on Labour Market- and Health Outcomes</i>	264
<i>ID545 - Small Pictures, Big Biases: The Adverse Effect of an Airbnb Anti-Discrimination Policy</i>	265
<i>ID548 - Early retirement for early starters - A well targeted policy for people with high job demand?</i>	266
<i>ID549 - Talent is Everywhere, Opportunity is Not: Online RoleModel Mentoring and Students' Aspirations</i>	267
<i>ID550 - Updating about Yourself by Learning about the Market: The Dynamics of Beliefs and Expectations in Job Search</i>	268
<i>ID551 - The causal effect of parenting style on early child development</i>	269
<i>ID558 - Minimum Wages and Inter-generational Inequality</i>	270
<i>ID559 - Cultural Gender Norms and Occupational Choice</i>	271
<i>ID561 - The Deadly Consequences of Skilled Labor Scarcity: Evidence from German Hospitals</i>	272
<i>ID563 - Child benefits and the well-being of new families</i>	273
<i>ID567 - The untold story of internal migration in Germany: Life-cycle patterns, developments, and the role of education</i>	274
<i>ID569 - The Economics of Labor & Patients' Health Outcomes: Evidence from Childbirth in Germany</i>	275
<i>ID571 - Long Run Impacts of Child Benefits</i>	276
<i>ID572 - Daylight Time, Circadian Rhythms, and Knowledge Worker Productivity: Insights from GitHub Data</i>	277
<i>ID573 - The Causal Effect of Higher Education on Earnings and Health</i>	278
<i>ID576 - Disentangling the Greening of the Labour Market: The Role of Changing Occupations and Worker Flows</i>	279
<i>ID578 - The only child</i>	280
<i>ID580 - Health Costs of a "Healthy Democracy": The Impact of Peaceful Political Protests on Healthcare Utilization</i>	281
<i>ID581 - Skill loss during parental leave and its role for gender disparities in earnings</i>	282
<i>ID582 - Shall I try it again or maybe later? Number and schedule of exam sessions and university students' outcomes</i>	283
<i>ID585 - Empowered but burdened? Welfare impacts of small education cash transfers in Bangladesh</i>	284

ID586 - Home Exams, Peers, and College Grades in Unprecedented Times	285
ID587 - Employer Responses to Raising the Retirement Age: Spillovers on Coworkers and External Hiring... ..	286
ID592 - The Long-Lasting Effects of a Canadian Based Child-Care Policy on the Labour Supply of Mothers with Pre-Schoolers: Common Trends, Heterogeneity, and Synthetic Methods.....	287
ID594 - Impacts of Entitlement Reductions on Return to Work and Subsequent Health	288
ID595 - Gender job polarisation	289
ID596 - The Persistence of Employment Gaps in Couples: To what extent do relative female-to-male wage opportunities matter?	290
ID601 - From Barracks to Books: The Educational Shift of Labor Market Entrants After Military Base Closures	291
ID603 - Closing the Early Childhood Skills Gap for Minorities:Evidence from Parental Investments and Preschool Attendance in Concentrated Roma Communities in Bulgaria	292
ID605 - How do parents affect the college education choice of their children?	293
ID606 - Economic Stimulus from Public Health Programs: Externalities from Mass AIDS Treatment Provision in South Africa	294
ID607 - Stormborn: Evaluating the Impact of Facility-Based Delivery on Health and Economic Outcomes Using a Machine Learning Approach	295
ID610 - The Stability Effect of Elected Women: Gender or Seniority?.....	296
ID611 - Effects of an Unconditional Cash Transfer on Maternal Employment	297
ID612 - Back to the Roots: the Effect of Culture on theGender Gap in STEM.....	298
ID613 - Women in Top Academic Positions: Is There a Trickle-down Effect?	299
ID614 - Let's roll back! The challenging task of regulating temporary contracts	300
ID615 - Parental Gender Stereotypes and Student Wellbeing in China	301
ID617 - Minimum Legal Drinking Age and Academic Performance: Quasi-experimental Evidence from Spain	302
ID620 - When the sun goes down: Effects of sunset time on adolescent sleep, mental health and education	303
ID621 - Racial Peer Effects at Work: Evidence from Worker Deaths in Brazil.....	304
ID624 - Distribution, Inequality and Poverty in Colombia: An Assessment of the Contribution of the Minimum Wage	305
ID625 - School Tracking and Geographic Mobility: Evidence from Finland	306
ID626 - Behavioral Effects of Becoming a Father: Separating Incapacitation from Identity.....	307
ID631 - Can A New Name Open Closed Doors? Foreign-Sounding Names and Immigrant Earnings	308
ID635 - Peer Effects in Financial Decisions: Evidence from Dutch Administrative Data	309
ID639 - Does Hospital Leadership Matter? Evidence from the Hospital Readmissions Reduction Program ...	310
ID641 - The impact of childcare on maternal employment	311
ID642 - Are Self-Reported Fertility Preferences Biased? Evidence from Indirect Elicitation Methods	312
ID644 - Let's Make it to Pre-University Track: The Role of Teacher Advice	313
ID646 - The Long-Term Effects of Diversity in School: Evidence from West Germany's Guest Worker Program	314
ID653 - Offering scholarships to adult skilled workers: Evidence from a field experiment	315
ID656 - School Closures and Child Maltreatment	316
ID662 - Untapped potential: Professional degree recognition and (un)paid work of migrant women	317
ID663 - The Menopause Penalty.....	318
ID664 - Videogames and the Gender Gap in Computer Science.....	319

<i>ID667 - Early childhood health inequalities and in-utero health interventions: evidence from the treatment of gestational diabetes.....</i>	<i>320</i>
<i>ID669 - Workforce quality in early years interventions:Evidence from a large-scale home visiting program.</i>	<i>321</i>
<i>ID673 - Minimum Wages and Provision of Training:The Swiss Case</i>	<i>322</i>
<i>ID674 - Gender gaps in academia: the role of children</i>	<i>323</i>
<i>ID677 - Publish or Procreate: The Effect of Motherhood on Research Performance</i>	<i>324</i>
<i>ID678 - Uncertainty, Citizenship and Migrant Saving Choices</i>	<i>325</i>
<i>ID681 - Local Finance and Job Creation: Examining Local Fiscal Multipliers on Private Employment</i>	<i>326</i>
<i>ID682 - Policy Evaluation of a Pregnancy Benefit: Effects on Births and Abortions</i>	<i>327</i>
<i>ID684 - Tax incentives to retirement saving and intertemporal income smoothing.....</i>	<i>328</i>
<i>ID685 - Can school supply reduce child labor demand? Experimental evidence from cacao regions in Ghana.</i>	<i>329</i>
<i>ID688 - How Do Parents Respond to Child Gender?</i>	<i>330</i>
<i>ID690 - Understanding Growth Through Automation: The Neoclassical Perspective</i>	<i>331</i>
<i>ID693 - Pay Transparency, Inequality and Firm Performance</i>	<i>332</i>
<i>ID699 - Health Shocks and Household Allocation of Time and Spending</i>	<i>333</i>
<i>ID703 - The Impact of a Parental Leave Benefit Reform on Parents' Leave-taking, Labor Supply and Childcare Arrangements</i>	<i>334</i>
<i>ID705 - The Role of Information and Contraceptive Use on Teen Pregnancy.....</i>	<i>335</i>
<i>ID706 - Outside Job Opportunities and the Gender Wage Gap</i>	<i>336</i>
<i>ID711 - Air pollution and Test Scores: Impacts and Heterogeneity</i>	<i>337</i>

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ID3 - Language Training, Refugees' Healthcare Integration, and the Next Generation's Health

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Abstract

Inadequate language proficiency presents a major obstacle to the successful integration of refugees and their family members into the society of the destination country. By exploiting a policy reform mandating participation in a 300-hour language training course in Norway, I investigate the multi-generational health effects of a comprehensive language training program. I document the significant positive impacts of the program, not only on refugees' long-run integration into the healthcare system but also on the health of the next generation. The program improves the cumulative use of primary care services over a period of 12 years after arrival by 44%. This increase is proposed to partially work through refugees' increased labor market attachment and economic success. The program also results in spillover benefits for the health at birth of the children of refugees with 21–49% decreases in premature birth, low birth weight, and short birth length. These inter-generational effects likely operate via significant improvements in the home environment and maternal care during pregnancy.

ID5 - Labor Market Competition and Inequality

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Abstract

Does competition in the labor market affect wage inequality? Standard textbook monopsony models predict that lower employer labor market power reduces wage dispersion. We test this hypothesis using Social Security data from Lithuania. We first fit a two-way fixed effects model to quantify the contribution of worker and firm heterogeneity to wage dispersion and document that the compression of dispersion in firm fixed effects has been the main source of the decline in inequality over the past 20 years. Using a theory-based relationship, we then leverage variation across sectors and over time to show that a 10 percentage point increase in labor market competition leads to a 0.7 percentage point reduction in the variance of firm-specific wage components. A counterfactual exercise using our preferred estimates suggests that the increase in labor market competition can explain at least 15 percent of the observed decline in overall wage inequality.

ID6 - Transaction Cost (Reductions) in Economic Interactions

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Abstract

Every human contact carries the risk of becoming infected with an infectious disease. These infection risks constitute transaction costs to economic activity. Individual behavior, such as hygiene standards or vaccinations, can reduce these transaction costs. However, the behavior is private information, resulting in asymmetric information across interacting individuals. In this paper, we quantify these transaction costs and their reduction through vaccinations for close contact services in a quasi-experimental setting. For the quantification, we exploit the substitutability of testing and vaccinations for infection risk reduction. We quantify the transaction costs by eliciting individuals' willingness to pay (WTP) for testing of the service provider and randomize the vaccination status of the service provider. We quantify the reduction of transaction costs through vaccinations by comparing the WTP for testing across the vaccination status of the service provider. We find that vaccinations reduce the specific transaction costs by 69% compared to the full infection risk reduction via testing. Our findings suggest that asymmetric information about the vaccination status increases transaction costs by approximately 50% for vaccinated individuals.

ID8 - Following in the family footsteps: Incidence and returns of occupational persistence

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Abstract

Children often follow their parents into the same occupations. Evidence on the economic returns of occupational persistence is scarce, yet understanding these outcomes and their unequal prevalence across social strata may be key to deciphering patterns of social mobility. In this paper, I leverage administrative data from the Netherlands and a unique policy experiment to document the incidence of occupational transmission and estimate individuals' additional gains when choosing the same profession as their parents. I find that children are twice as likely to enter a given occupation when it is their parents', with this rate substantially increasing for those above the top quartile of the parental income distribution. In addition, OLS estimated returns from occupational persistence are 2.8%. Using the random assignment to medical school provided by a lottery admission, I focus on the medical profession to decompose these "naive" returns into a treatment and a selection effect of occupational transmission. Instrumental variable estimates show that "dynastic" doctors experience a 23% income boost relative to individuals who did not follow their parents. Furthermore, I identify a substantial negative selection bias in the OLS coefficients, suggesting that individuals selecting into following their parents perform worse than their peers when pushed into different occupations. The large treatment effect, together with the unequal incidence along the income distribution, highlights the critical role of occupational transmission in exacerbating inequalities.

ID11 - Forced displacement and occupational mobility: a skills-based approach

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Abstract

We explain labor market mobility from a worker's set of occupational skills and its transferability to other occupations. To address causality, we focus on mobile workers because of forced displacement and study the relationship between the commonality of skills between occupations and labor outcomes following displacement. Using a rich matched employer-employee database from Brazil, we find that a higher occupational skills commonality shortens unemployment spells and increases the probability of transiting to another occupation. In addition, event-study analyses show that a one standard deviation increase in our measure of occupational skills commonality leads to a decrease of 1 to 1.2% in the probability of continuing unemployed after displacement or 10 to 20% of the overall variation in unemployment. However, although facing short periods out of the formal labor market, these individuals do not experience larger wages upon re-employment. Lastly, we explore the impact of skills mismatch on wages and find that movements to similar occupations lead to higher wages.

ID12 - Beliefs about the Gender Pension Gap

Jana Schuetz

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Abstract

I conduct an online survey of 3,000 respondents in the United States to examine individuals' beliefs about the gender pension gap. By including an information provision experiment in which treated respondents are informed about the size of the gender pension gap, I examine whether receiving this information affects respondents' perceptions of the fairness and drivers of the gender pension gap and their support for policies aimed at reducing it. I find that most respondents underestimate the gender pension gap and that treated respondents are less likely to perceive the gender pension gap as fair. In addition, treated respondents perceive the unequal distribution of care work and gender differences in wages as more important drivers of the gap, and their demand for remedial policies such as targeted financial education increases significantly. In terms of heterogeneity, I find that female respondents are generally less affected by the treatment than male respondents when asked about their policy views, although the treatment affects male and female respondents' beliefs and perceptions about the gender pension gap similarly.

ID13 - Do partially disabled people respond to financial incentives to work?

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Abstract

In the Netherlands partially disabled individuals face financial incentives to increase labor participation after 3 to up to 38 months from the first day of claiming disability insurance (DI). The incentive induces a negative income effect on labor supply. By the design of the DI scheme, the income effect is larger for those who earn higher wages before falling sick. Using administrative data on all partially disabled individuals and taking a local randomization approach to regression discontinuity, we analyze the labor participation effect of the financial incentives across pre-sickness wage groups. Partially disabled individuals who earn at most the minimum wage before falling sick increase labor participation by 3.7 percentage points, while those who earn at least 2.5 times of the minimum wage increase labor participation by 7.4 percentage points. The effects are persistent in the long run, substantially heterogeneous across labor market and disability characteristics, and robust to alternative identification assumptions.

ID15 - Pre-school Enrollment and Mothers' Labour Supply: Evidence from Europe

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Abstract

Given that child-related career interruptions are mostly borne by women, childcare provision appears as one of the cornerstones of gender equality on the labour market. In this context, this paper evaluates the effect of pre-school availability on maternal labour supply in a European comparison perspective. We use data from the European Union Statistics on Income and Living Conditions (EU-SILC) and exploit the discontinuous relationship between eligibility to pre-school and the child's year of birth to predict enrollment in a fuzzy regression on discontinuity design. We show that pre-school enrollment does not increase maternal labour supply on average. Nevertheless, further explorations show that the intensive margin is positively affected for the most educated mothers and mothers who do not have younger children. At the country level, pre-school is a leverage for maternal labour market participation in countries with stronger gender stereotypes and in countries with a low investment in early childcare.

ID17 - Just Another Cog in the Machine? A Worker-Level View of Robotization and Tasks

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Abstract

Using survey data from 20 European countries, we construct novel worker-level indices of routine, abstract, social, and physical tasks, which we combine with industry-level robotization exposure. Our conceptual framework builds on the insight that robotization simultaneously replaces, creates, and modifies workers' tasks and studies how these forces impact workers' job content. We rely on instrumental variable techniques and show that robotization reduces physically demanding activities. Yet, this reduction in manual work does not coincide with a shift to more challenging and interesting tasks. Instead, robotization makes workers' tasks more routine, while diminishing the opportunities for cognitively challenging work and human contact. The adverse impact of robotization on social tasks is particularly pronounced for highly skilled and educated workers. Our study offers a unique worker-centric viewpoint on the interplay between technology and tasks, highlighting nuances that macro-level indicators overlook. As such, it sheds light on the mechanisms underpinning the impact of robotization on labor markets.

ID19 - Equal Justice Under Law? Local Justice Quality and Crimes

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Abstract

Being strongly related to certainty of punishment, efficient justice is expected to matter more than the severity of punishment in deterring crimes. However, the evidence supporting this perspective is scarce. This paper estimates the effect of a reform of the criminal justice system that took place in Italy in 2012, evaluating its impact on justice efficiency and crime deterrence. Event study and difference-in-difference estimates reveal that the reform significantly improved the efficiency of criminal courts and deterred property crimes and organised crimes, while violent crimes were not affected. These results support the idea that the deterrence effect of justice efficiency applies particularly to “rational” crimes, while criminals acting under impulsive and less-rational circumstances do not internalise information about justice in their decision-making.

ID26 - From homemakers to breadwinners? How mandatory kindergarten affects maternal labour market outcomes

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Abstract

The majority of Swiss children attend mandatory and cost-free kindergarten at four. We examine the effect of this policy on maternal labour market outcomes. Using administrative data, we exploit the birthday cut-off for kindergarten entry in the same or in the following year and apply a non-parametric regression discontinuity design (RDD). We find that mandatory kindergarten has a statistically significant positive effect on the labour market attachment of previously non-employed mothers, increasing their employment probability by 4 percentage points. In contrast, there are no significant effects on other groups or in the total sample of mothers.

ID27 - Instrument-based estimation of full treatment effects with movers

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Abstract

The effect of the full treatment is a primary parameter of interest in policy evaluation, while often only the effect of a subset of treatment is estimated. We partially identify the local average treatment effect of receiving full treatment (LAFTE) using an instrumental variable that may induce individuals into only a subset of treatment (movers). We show that movers violate the standard exclusion restriction, necessary conditions on the presence of movers are testable, and partial identification holds under a double exclusion restriction. We identify movers in four empirical applications and estimate informative bounds on the LAFTE in three of them.

ID29 - The heritability of economic preferences

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Abstract

We study the heritability of risk, uncertainty, and time preferences using a field experiment with a large sample of adult twins. We also offer a meta-analysis of existing findings. Our field study introduces a novel empirical approach that marries behavioral genetics with structural econometrics. This allows us to, for the first time, quantify the heritability of economic preference parameters directly without employing proxy measures. Our incentive-compatible experiment is the first twin study to elicit all three types of preferences for the same individual. Compared to previous studies, we find a greater role of genes in explaining risk and uncertainty preferences, and of the shared familial environment in explaining time preferences. Time preferences appear more important from policy and parenting perspectives since they exhibit limited genetic variation and are more than twice as sensitive to the familial environment as risk and uncertainty preferences.

ID30 - Product of our Environment? Place Effects on Body Mass Index in Australia

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Abstract

The increasing levels of obesity and overweightness worldwide are an issue of great importance for the healthcare system, policymakers, and the public. A relatively underexplored aspect of weight is the role that one's location can play on determining their weight. The study will seek to address this gap by undertaking econometric analysis on weight and place in Australia.

This study utilises a dynamic event study framework focusing on those who move location. We use this to look at how weight changes with a change in location and by extension how much of the overall variation in weight can be explained by place-based versus individual factors. As a secondary part of this initial analysis, we also model the effects of place on common behavioural correlates of weight. To complement our initial event study findings, we then undertake a decomposition analysis on both movers and non-movers to determine the role in place in determining differences in weight between groups of areas.

Our results indicate a statistically significant and robust place effect on weight in Australia. Our initial event study indicates that place is responsible for 15.92% of the variation of weight in Australia at a 1% significance level. These results are robust to several different specifications including larger statistical areas, a fully balanced panel and restrictions of the periods around the move. Our decomposition results also indicate that place can explain a portion of the variation in weight which exists between groups of areas.

ID33 - Social capital and vaccination compliance: Evidence from Italy

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Abstract

Exploiting high-frequency vaccination data for COVID-19 and social capital measures at the municipal level in Italy between January and October 2021, this paper estimates the effect of social capital on vaccination compliance.

We find that high social capital had a significant positive effect on the increase in weekly vaccination coverage rate for the overall population throughout the entire period of observation.

Results do not differ by gender and the effect is mainly driven by younger generations.

Our findings shed light on the role of social capital as a driver of health protective behaviour, which can be leveraged on by public health campaigns and health interventions.

Exploiting high-frequency vaccination data for COVID-19 and social capital

ID35 - The effect of childcare subsidies for young children on mothers' fertility decisions and labor market outcomes: A natural experiment from Spain

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Abstract

We estimate the effects of a large-scale center-based nursery school subsidy program on the participation of women in the labor market and their future fertility decisions. To identify the causal impacts of the subsidy program, we make use of eligibility rules based on a strict child birthday eligibility cutoff, to estimate the causal effect of receiving an additional year of subsidies on maternal outcomes. Our main specifications make use of both regression discontinuity and differences-in-differences designs. We find positive impacts of the subsidy on both maternal labor market outcomes and fertility that are strongest for lower-educated women. Our study aims to fill a gap in the literature on childcare subsidies and maternal outcomes by studying subsidies provided at earlier child ages than are typically studied in the literature; specifically, before the age of three.

ID36 - School closures, parental labor supply, and time use

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Abstract

The closure of schools to in-person instruction during the COVID-19 pandemic posed a unique shock to parents. This paper re-examines the effect of schooling mode on parental labor supply. The effects are undetectable using a full suite of controls for unobserved heterogeneity, which can be motivated by the failure of more parsimonious models to pass simple placebo tests. Even abstracting from such controls, though, a shift from fully virtual to in-person implies an increase in hours worked of 2 to 2.5 hours per week. We present a simple model of parental time allocation and child development to formalize why these estimates appear unexpectedly small. We then introduce telework and nonparental care into the theory, demonstrate that these features can support realistic labor supply outcomes, and illustrate how our estimates in turn discipline the inference of salient structural parameters. Evidence from time use diaries indicates that telework did support both market work and childcare, chiefly among parents with college degrees. Time use data and other surveys also provide suggestive evidence of the increased utilization of nonparental care.

ID38 - Do Commuting Subsidies Drive Workers to Better Firms?

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Abstract

An unappreciated possible benefit of commuting subsidies is that they can expand the choice set of feasible jobs for workers in a way that facilitates better job match quality. Variation in wages and initial commuting distances, combined with major reforms to the commuting subsidy formula in Germany, generates worker-specific variation in commuting subsidy changes. We study the effect of changes in these subsidies on a worker's position in the wage distribution. Increases in the generosity of commuting subsidies induce workers to switch to higher-paying jobs with longer commutes. Although increases in commuting subsidies generally induce workers to switch to employers that pay higher wages, commuting subsidies also enhance positive assortativity in the labor market by better matching high-ability workers to higher-productivity plants. Greater assortativity induced by commuting subsidies corresponds to greater earnings inequality.

ID44 - Firm Consolidation and Labor Market Outcomes

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Abstract

Using rich administrative data from the Netherlands, we study the consequences of firm consolidation for workers. For workers at acquired firms, takeovers are associated with a 8.5% drop in employment at the consolidated firm and a 2.6% drop in total labor income. These effects are persistent even four years after the takeover. Few takeovers change labor market concentration meaningfully and we show that the primary mechanism for this job loss effect is not an increase in the labor market power of firms but restructuring at consolidating firms. Specifically, workers with higher-than-expected pay relative to their human capital and workers with skills that are likely already present at acquirers are less likely to be retained.

ID49 - Competing for Equality: Understanding the Gender Gap in International Piano Competitions from 1890-1990

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Abstract

Are women systematically disadvantaged in competitive environments? We address this question by examining women's participation and achievement in international piano competitions. Using rich administrative data on the near universe of international piano competitions held between 1890 and 1990, we find that while women comprise nearly half of piano competition participants, women are underrepresented among finalist and winners. As potential explanations for this gender gap, we explore the roles of (i) female representation among jurors; (ii) competition intensity; and (iii) increasing returns to experience and the differential persistence of men and women on the competition circuit. Our findings suggest that the third factor is largely responsible for the gender gap in piano competitions, a result that contributes to a growing literature documenting gender differences in persistence in a variety of settings, including patent applications, math competitions, university entrance exams, and enrollment in STEM subjects.

ID50 - Brothers, Sisters, and Support to Older Parents: Separate Spheres Across and Within Support Types?

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Abstract

Adult children, especially sons, are often considered a linchpin of support to older parents in many patriarchal societies. We develop a model of transfers from adult children to older parents as existing in separate spheres depending on the child's gender and type of transfer. Using data from the China Health and Retirement Longitudinal Study, we find strong evidence of such differentiation. Coresidential support comes almost exclusively from sons as do large transfers, while daughters are more likely to make smaller transfers. Interestingly, crowding-out of financial transfers by siblings occurs primarily within gender: sons give less when they have more brothers but not when they have more sisters, and daughters give less when they have more sisters but not when they have more brothers. This pattern is present for both in-kind and cash transfers, suggesting that support from adult children may not be substitutable between genders, even for relatively fungible currencies.

ID60 - Graying and staying on the job: The welfare implications of employment protection for older workers

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Abstract

We study the welfare implications of employment protection for older workers, exploiting recent bans on mandatory retirement across Canadian provinces. Using linked employer-employee tax data, we show that the bans cause large and similar reductions in job separation rates and retirement hazards at age 65, with further reductions at higher ages. The effects vary substantially across industries and firms, and around two-fifths of the adjustments occur between ban announcement and implementation dates. We find no evidence that the demand for older workers falls, but the welfare effects are mediated by spillovers on savings behavior, workplace injuries, and spousal retirement timing.

ID61 - The Impact of Local Pollution Exposure on Hospital Admissions: The Case of Portugal

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Abstract

The World Health Organization has reviewed downwards the air quality guidelines, having more severely tightened the annual recommended nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) standard. Yet, economic research focused on assessing the impact of this criterion pollutant on health outcomes is still lacking. This paper aims to fill this gap by estimating the impact of the daily concentration of nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) on the number of hospital admissions due to respiratory-related reasons in Portugal between January 1, 2016, and December 31, 2018. I find that a 1 microg/m³ increase in daily nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) concentration increases the number of hospital admissions due to specific respiratory-related reasons (pneumonia, COPD, asthma) by 2.6% among children 2 to 5 years old. For this cohort, back-of-the-envelope costs estimates amount to 830 thousand euros (2018), representing 0.1% of the total annual health budget of the country. I also show that in Portugal, the richer, younger, and more educated population is concentrated in urban areas and relies on a car as the main transportation mode, being exposed to higher-than-average daily NO₂ concentrations. Therefore, this study provides relevant data to better inform regulators to implement sustainable solutions, such as Low Emission Zones, to decrease ambient nitrogen dioxide levels in Portugal, improving the welfare of local populations.

ID62 - International Teacher Effects in Higher Education

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Abstract

Growing internationalism in the UK not only increased the share and diversity of foreign students, but also their educators. In this paper, I examine the effects of linguistic differences between university teaching assistants (TAs) on students' performance in early and final years of their undergraduate degree. I also look at their longer-term choices and whether there are any effects on those from ethno-linguistic differences in TAs. Finally, I present the overview of the TA gender effects on students' short and longer-term outcomes. Main findings suggest that in the short-run, non-native English speaking students face lower performance outcomes as a result of being taught by a TA whose native language is other than English, however, the results vastly differ in the longer-run, suggesting that having a non-native English speaking TA teaching students in early years of their studies, results in higher grades in their final year. These findings are not observed for native English speaking students. I also find positive gender role model effects in the beginning of the studies. Females benefit from being taught by females and males perform better when taught by male TAs. This result disappears in the longer-run – the gender of teachers in first and second year of the undergraduate degree does not have any effect on final year outcomes.

ID70 - The Long-Term Impact of Parental Migration on the Health of Young Left-Behind Children

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Abstract

In 2015, 15% of all children in China were left behind in the countryside because at least one of their parents migrated to a city. We implement an event study analysis between 2010 and 2018 on five waves of the China Family Panel Studies (CFPS) to investigate the dynamic effects of parental migration on the health of left behind young children (LBC). While we find a gradual increase in medical expenditures, we do not detect any significant impact on the incidence of *sickness*. Furthermore, the analysis shows that the incidence of *overweight* declines gradually since their parents' first migration and reports suggestive evidence for mental health improvement. We argue that these long-term positive effects on health and health consumption can be explained by the transitory nature of migration, the high-quality substitution of the caregiver role by grandparents, and by a reorientation in family expenditures, partly induced by government policy.

ID71 - Poor rich women? Labour market effects of de-subsidising childcare for high-income mothers

Gabriele Mari, Olivier Marie, Renske Stans

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Abstract

We investigate how subsidies affect the labour market outcomes of women in high-income households, where child penalties are often steeper but childcare expenses might be easier to pay out of pocket. Using a stacked difference-in-difference design and admin data, we examine a 2013 reform which curtailed childcare subsidies for high-income households in the Netherlands. For women affected by the reform, we find steeper post-childbirth earnings losses and reductions in labour supply at the extensive and intensive margin, depending on the child's age at subsidy loss. Use of unpaid leave increases in the first period after childbirth, followed by more frequent moves to female-dominated and part-time intensive sectors. We show evidence of heterogeneous responses based on how much women contributed to household income and their employment sector before childbirth. Suggestive evidence points to protracted employment losses in the medium term. Joint work with Olivier Marie and Renske Stans.

ID76 - Transmission of Gender Norms and Women's Labor Force Participation over Time

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Abstract

What is the role of changing gender norms in the dramatic increase of married women's labor force participation over the 20th century? In this paper, I develop a model that explains the co- evolution of gender norms and female labor force participation over time. Couples decide on the wife's labor supply based on a social norm cost both members of the household face. They learn about the true cost of women in the workforce through private intergenerational transmission of norms and the observation of the previous generation. Through these two sources of learning, the expectation of the social norm cost converges to the true, low cost. The model is calibrated with US data and matches the increase and flattening out at high levels of female labor force participation over time. I show that evolving beliefs matter for explaining the evolution of female labor force participation over time.

ID78 - Fortunate Families? The Effects of Wealth on Marriage and Fertility

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Abstract

We estimate the effects of large, positive wealth shocks on marriage and fertility in a sample of Swedish lottery players. For male winners, wealth increases marriage formation and fertility, and there is suggestive evidence that divorce risk goes down. For female winners, the only discernible effect of wealth is that it increases short-run (but not long-run) divorce risk. Overall, the pattern of gendered treatment effects we document closely mirror the gender differences in income gradients in observational data. The gendered effects on divorce risk are consistent with a model where the wealthier spouse retains most of his/her wealth following a marital disruption. In support of this assumption, we show divorce settlements in Sweden often favor the richer spouse.

ID81 - Work against Gender Violence: The Effect of Employment Incentives to Victims Hosted by Anti-Violence Centers

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Abstract

This study analyzes whether active policy measures aimed at improving employment opportunities for women who are victims of violence might lead to a reduction in gender-based violence. The empirical study exploits an Italian policy that incentivizes the permanent hiring of women who are victims of violence in firms which are legally established as social cooperatives. Crimes are measured through the number of cases registered in almost 1/3 of the existing anti-violence centers operating in Italy. The impact of the reform is examined by using a Two-Way Fixed Effects model with continuous treatment, given that the firms that receive the subsidy are distributed across Italian provinces with a high degree of heterogeneity. The results show that after the reform i) the probability of being employed in incentivized positions rise significantly for women; ii) the number of both new and existing cases registered in anti-violence centers decreased most where there is a greater presence of social cooperatives.

ID83 - Parental Leave, Worker Substitutability, and Firms' Employment

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Abstract

Motherhood and parental leave are frequent causes of worker absences and employment interruptions, yet we know little about their effects on firms. Based on linked employer-employee data from Germany, we examine how more generous leave benefits affect firm-level employment and hiring decisions. Focusing on small- and medium-sized firms, we show that more generous benefits reduce firm-level employment in the short term, which is driven by firms with few internal substitutes for the absent mother. However, firms do not respond to longer expected absences by hiring fewer young women, even when few internal substitutes are available. To rationalise the findings, we show that replacement hiring occurs largely before the expected absence and that firms hire more external replacements when fewer internal substitutes are available. These findings indicate that extended leave does not harm firms when these can plan for the longer worker absences.

ID85 - Mind the (Gender Pay) Gap: The role of Board Gender Composition

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Abstract

This paper explores the role of board gender composition on pay-related outcomes in the UK. Using administrative data from firms with at least 250 employees since 2017/18, we employ a method based on Bartik (1991). Our approach relies on the regional aggregation of the share of female directors. This is exogenous to firm-level wage determination. The findings reveal that a more gender-diverse board can reduce the pay gap by over 3%, as female directors are associated with better outcomes for other female employees. This effect is more pronounced in higher productivity firms, which often exhibit a higher Gender Pay Gap due to female under-representation and within-firm inequalities. When looking jointly at the board nationality and gender composition, gender is significant for any outcome in company boards where more than 51% of directors are UK nationals

ID89 - Universal free school meals and children's educational attainment: Impacts and mechanisms

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Abstract

We study the impact on children's educational attainment of switching from means-tested to universal provision of nutritious free school meals in England. We exploit a roll-out of universal provision across Local Authorities and over time. We estimate average treatment effects and check for pre-trends following recent developments in the literature on difference-in-difference estimation. We show that exposure to universal free lunches improves children's Reading test scores by approximately 4% of a standard deviation, or 2 weeks' progress, by age 11. We do not find strong evidence for any impact on Maths scores, or a quantitatively important effect on absences, including for illness or medical appointments. Impacts are similar for children newly eligible and those already eligible for Free School Meals under means-testing, and in schools with high and low pre-existing eligibility. This suggests that the gains to educational attainment are due to changes in the overall school environment, rather than concentrated in those changing their nutritional intake.

ID94 - The effect of broadband internet on mental health

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Abstract

This paper studies the effect of broadband diffusion on individuals' mental health in Belgium. Residential access to high-speed internet has altered how, when, and where individuals conduct a wide range of activities—including work, sleep, search for information, and social interaction—that may impact individuals' mental well-being. Our empirical strategy exploits a technological feature of the telecommunication infrastructure that generated substantial variation in the availability of Internet access across households: the distance of a household from a network node determines internet access. Using a dynamic difference-in-differences design, we compare mental health-related outcomes of individuals with access to residential internet to those without. We find that broadband internet is associated with a 2-3% increase in long-term disability rates with respect to baseline values. This increase is driven entirely by increases in disability insurance claims due to mental health conditions. In placebo estimations we find no impact of internet on the probability of entering long-term disability due to other medical reasons, such as musculoskeletal conditions. This paper contributes to a broader understanding of the upward trend in work-related illnesses—burnout and chronic stress—and their role in the expansion of disability insurance programs.

ID95 - Feed the children

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Abstract

To understand the household decision making process regarding food expenditures for children in poor households in Nairobi, we conduct an experiment with 424 married and monogamous couples. In the experiment, the spouses (individually and jointly) allocate money between themselves and nutritious meals for one of their children. We propose a novel and simple test to distinguish between cooperative/collective and non-cooperative decision behavior. We find strong empirical support for the collective model of household consumption. When using this collective model, the spouses' structural bargaining weights derived from observed consumption patterns strongly correlate with more traditional indicators of power. Our results further suggest that women do not have stronger preferences for children's meals than men. Finally, we document significant heterogeneity in both individual preferences and intra-household decision processes.

ID96 - Migration and natives' inequality: evidence from Italian local labour markets

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Abstract

Using individual data from the Italian Labour Force Survey, we investigate the impact of immigration on the Gini Index and the percentile ratio (p90/p10) at the household level within Labour Market Areas (LMAs) in Italy from 2008 to 2018. To identify the effect of immigration we construct a composite index based on demographic and occupation-related characteristics that captures the degree of similarity between immigrants and natives across LMAs. This approach addresses the limitations of the standard cell segmentation method and allows us to estimate the impact of immigration on the entire distribution of natives' earnings. To address endogeneity concerns we use an instrument proposed by Card (2001), which exploits the tendency of immigrants to migrate to areas with a pre-existing group of immigrants of the same ethnicity. Our findings show that immigration reduces income inequality among natives and the effect is larger in those LMAs where the degree of similarity between immigrants and natives is higher. We also find that immigration has a positive effect on natives' labour income in occupations that require language skills, while the effect is not significant in low/no skilled jobs that only require basic language skills, or highly skilled jobs where interaction between immigrants and natives is limited.

ID97 - Time allocation of daughters-in-law and mothers-in-law in India: The role of education as bargaining power

Leena Bhattacharya

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Abstract

The paper addresses the less-researched topic of intrahousehold dynamics of female in-laws in developing countries by focusing on the bargaining between mother-in-law and daughter-in-law and its influence on the latter's time allocation. Using the first nationally representative Time Use Survey of India, 2019, the paper answers two questions. First, how does the presence of the parents-in-law, particularly the mother-in-law, shape the daughter-in-law's distribution of time between paid and unpaid activities? Second, how does the relative bargaining power among the female in-laws affect the daughter-in-law's time allocation across different activities, where their education levels are used as indicators of bargaining power? The findings show that the daughter-in-law's participation in paid employment increases in the presence of her mother-in-law and she allocates more time to paid employment and less time to household production. The effect is evident for the daughters-in-law who co-reside with mothers-in-law who have completed at least secondary education. The mother-in-law's time allocated to household production and childcare increases when she co-resides with a daughter-in-law who has completed tertiary education. The father-in-law's presence consistently diminishes the daughter-in-law's engagement in paid employment and increases both women's time spent on household production. Heterogeneity in results is observed by socio-religious groups and by the extent of patriarchy in the state of residence. Overall, the results suggest that policies that aim to increase women's education and promote gender-equal attitudes among men can enhance the daughter-in-law's bargaining power leading to more favourable time allocations.

ID98 - “This time it’s different” Generative Artificial Intelligence and Occupational Choice

Daniel Goller, Christian Gschwendt, [Stefan Wolter](#)

University of Bern, Berne, Switzerland

Abstract

In this paper, we show the causal influence of the launch of generative AI in the form of ChatGPT on the search behavior of young people for apprenticeship vacancies. There is a strong and long-lasting decline in the intensity of searches for vacancies, which suggests great uncertainty among the affected cohort. Analyses based on the classification of occupations according to tasks, type of cognitive requirements, and the expected risk of automation to date show significant differences in the extent to which specific occupations are affected. Occupations with a high proportion of cognitive tasks, with high demands on language skills, and those whose automation risk had previously been assessed by experts as lower are significantly more affected by the decline. However, no differences can be found with regard to the proportion of routine vs. non-routine tasks.

ID105 - Parental Leave Intentions, Gender, and Job Discrimination: Insights from a Swedish Field Experiment

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Abstract

This paper reports on a field experiment investigating hiring discrimination in the Swedish labor market against job candidates signaling intentions for future part-time parental leave. Swedish law, known for its advanced work-life balance policies and generous parental leave, strictly prohibits any form of labor market discrimination against individuals on parental leave or planning to take it. Drawing from theories of gender roles and economic discrimination, we hypothesized that signaling intent for future part-time parental leave disadvantages job applicants. Consequently, we evaluated employers' compliance with the law in this context. We conducted a correspondence test field experiment, sending fictitious job applications to 960 employers in low-skilled occupations, including a male-dominated (trucking) and a female-dominated (cleaning) profession. Gender and whether applicants had an intention for future part-time parental leave were randomly varied. The findings are both illuminating and alarming: Applicants who indicated intentions to take part-time parental leave were significantly less likely to receive job interview invitations, with their chances reduced by half. This bias was evident across genders and occupations, highlighting a systemic issue in the labor market. These results underscore the need for more vigorous enforcement of laws to prevent undue discrimination related to parental leave intentions.

ID106 - TEMPORARY EMPLOYMENT, FERTILITY AND HEALTH AT BIRTH

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Abstract

We study the causal effect of temporary employment on fertility and infant health outcomes by exploiting exogenous variation in the availability of temporary contracts. The Spanish 1984 reform led to an extensive liberalisation in the use of fix-term contracts, increasing job insecurity and reducing the career prospects of those entering the labour market under this regime. Yet, the long-term effects of temporary employment on fertility and infant health remain poorly understood. Using administrative and survey data, we estimate a within-cohort difference-in-difference model comparing low-educated mothers entering the labour market before and after the reform. We find a reduction in the number of children by low-skilled affected mothers and a postponement in the timing of their first child. Regarding health at birth, we report a higher probability of preterm birth and a stronger incidence of low birth weight. Two mechanisms are driving our results: affected mothers are less likely to have a permanent job, and they have higher emancipation ages, delaying the timing at which they become economically independent. Our results are the first to quantify the causal impacts of temporary contracts on fertility and birth outcomes in the long-term and highlight the role that job insecurity has in the reduction in fertility rates observed in most developed countries.

ID110 - Short-Term Events, Long-Term Friends? Freshman Orientation Peers and Academic Performance

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Abstract

Many organizations use onboarding programs to assist newcomers with the transition process. Are brief social interactions during such programs sufficient to create lasting performance spillovers? Exploiting quasi-random assignment to groups of a two-day freshman orientation program for university students, I find that higher ability peers generate positive effects even three years later. A one SD increase in peer ability improves the academic performance of business administration students by 0.05 to 0.08 SD. I provide evidence that these effects result from the formation of lasting social ties, and that performance spillovers are moderated by the broader social environment of the organization.

ID111 - Delayed Retirement: Effects on Health and Healthcare Utilization

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Abstract

This paper estimates the effect of a reform-induced increase in the early retirement age (ERA) on health and healthcare utilization using detailed Danish administrative data and a regression discontinuity design. We show that while the increased ERA successfully extended employment, it also led to spillovers into other public transfers. We find that the increased ERA led to modest increases in general practitioner visits in the periods around the extended ERA, a sizable and persistent increase in the use of antidepressants, but small and insignificant effects on comorbidities, use of painkillers, and use of cardiovascular disease medicine. Further analysis shows that individuals who extended employment in response to the reform were more financially constrained pre-reform, while the individuals who did not increase employment despite being affected by the reform were characterized by worse pre-reform health. We argue that the spillovers into other transfer programs serve as a potentially important mitigating mechanism for health and healthcare utilization effects by sorting vulnerable individuals out of extending employment.

ID113 - Evaluating the Performance of Performance Standards in Higher Education

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Abstract

Although many tertiary education programs use performance standards to dismiss low-performing students, their effects are unclear. Using a difference-in-differences design and rich administrative data, I study the effects of implementing performance standards in the first year of bachelor programs in the Netherlands. There are four main results. First, implementing a performance standard does not deter prospective students from enrolling in a program. Second, a substantial share of students is dismissed, with larger effects for men. Third, the benefits for programs are limited because the graduation rate decreases and the remaining students do not graduate faster. Fourth, there are no benefits for students in terms of higher education degree attainment, enrollment duration, or subsequent labor outcomes up to 15 years after enrollment.

ID117 - The impact of terrorism at the municipality level in Colombia: A new difference-in-differences approach

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Abstract

This paper studies the persistence of the effects that terrorism exert on municipality size. With this aim, we propose to implement new difference-in-differences estimation techniques that control for heterogeneous effects across units and time. Using data of Colombia covering the period 1985-2020, we first show the importance of conditioning on covariates in order to make the parallel trends assumption reliable. More importantly, and in contrast to previous related studies, our results suggest that terrorist incidents have had permanent adverse effects on municipality size. We also show that this finding is robust to the identification strategy adopted.

ID118 - Kinder, Küche, Kirche - Family policies and fertility in the Third Reich.

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Abstract

After coming to power in 1933, the National Socialist German Workers' Party employed propaganda to reinforce the dominance of the Aryan Volk and swiftly implemented a series of economic and proactive family policies. Among these measures, the 'Law for the Encouragement of Marriage' emerged as one of the most far-reaching and distortionary policies in the history of family policy. Its primary aim was to restrict women's labor force participation in order to alleviate unemployment and promote the growth of the Aryan population. We evaluate the impact of National Socialism on marital fertility in (West) Germany by analyzing census data from 1933, 1939, and 1970. Our findings indicate that the first years of domination by the Nazis are associated with a transitory increase in fertility until 1938. Importantly, German women who were fully exposed to the Nazi family policies experienced a smaller rise in marital fertility as measured in 1938, compared to their compatriots who had only partial exposure. This relative decline can be attributed to the severe penalties imposed on childless, unmarried individuals, which incentivized Germans to enter into lower-quality and less fertile unions. The negative selection effect, depressing fertility, persisted until 1970, and represents the primary legacy of Nazism on the fertility of German women.

ID122 - Consequences of Rapid Structural Change - Evidence from Hydropower Expansions

René Karadakic

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Abstract

The establishment of hydroelectric power plants resulted in a rapid structural transformation of Norwegian municipalities around the beginning of the 20th century. Using a novel dataset linking individuals born between 1890 and 1910 to historic death data, I find that experiencing childhood in rapidly transforming local areas leads to an increase of ten months in age at death for men. This effect is entirely driven by individuals born into higher socioeconomic status households. I find that incomes, manufacturing, immigration and economic inequality in local areas in the short/medium-term increase after the introduction of hydropower, while public health deteriorates at the same time. This suggests that, in the long term, economic development through structural transformation outweighs the negative consequences of a deteriorating public health environment and thereby increases the lifespan of individuals.

ID128 - Shouldering the Weight of Climate Change: Intra-household Resource Allocation after Rainfall Shocks

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Abstract

This paper investigates the effect of rainfall shocks on the allocation of household consumption among children, women, and men in Malawi. The identification relies on the spatial-temporal variation in the occurrence of rainfall shocks in four agricultural growing seasons between 2010 and 2019. I estimate a collective model of household to retrieve individual resource shares and their determinants. Results show that a drought in the growing season is likely to induce the redistribution of household resources from women and children towards men. Welfare analyses based on the comparison of individual consumption and poverty rates show that women tend to bear the burden of the shock within the household. The negative effect of a drought on women's resource shares is more pronounced in areas where men are more actively involved in income-generating and off-farm activities than women after a drought. This suggests that the drought-induced redistribution of resources within household is likely motivated by 'life-boat ethics', that is, nourishing the members with higher marginal productivity and potential to bring cash income to the household.

ID129 - Service Jobs and Education - Evidence from Tourism Shocks in Italy

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Abstract

This study explores how the rise in service occupations impacts educational outcomes in Italy. We identify exogenous variation in the growth of service jobs using shocks to the tourism industry caused by terrorist attacks abroad. We find that higher exposure to tourism shocks decreases college enrollment and completion rates. The decline in enrollment is primarily due to fewer students choosing humanities and social sciences. Both men and women affected by the shock respond by reducing enrollment and completion. While men tend to respond temporarily to take advantage of the higher labor demand, women, who are more prevalent in the tourism sector, experience a permanent impact. Furthermore, we study how the impact on education patterns affects labor market outcomes. We find that employment in the tourism sector, as well as the overall labor market increase. This result follows from a decline in non-participation rather than unemployment.

ID130 - Resilience to Automation: The Role of Task Overlap for Job Finding

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Abstract

We investigate the role of task similarity for the resilience of unemployed job seekers exposed to automation of routine tasks. Using a language model, we establish a novel job-to-job task similarity measure. Exploiting the resulting job network to define job markets flexibly, we find that only the most similar jobs affect job finding. Since automation-exposed jobs overlap with other highly exposed jobs, task-based reallocation provides little relief for affected job seekers. We show that this is not true for more recent software exposure, for which task overlap mitigates the distributional consequences. Our counterfactual simulation highlights the potential harm of increasing job mobility as it strengthens the divided exposure of job seekers to routine-task automation.

ID132 - The effect of motherhood timing on earnings at midlife in the UK

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Abstract

An extensive body of research shows that motherhood has substantial impacts on women's wages and earnings, but there is less evidence on the effect of the timing of motherhood, particularly over the long term and from contexts other than the US. This study analyses data from the 1970 British Cohort Study (BCS70) to examine whether the timing of motherhood affects women's midlife earnings, as well as the role of potential mediators (tertiary education, years in paid work, and the number of children). We make use of the occurrence of contraceptive failure as a source of exogenous variation in the age at first birth. We find evidence for the UK that avoidance of early motherhood may have a positive effect on women's probability of having any positive earnings in midlife, but also that later motherhood has a negative effect on midlife earnings among mothers with any earnings. The former effect was partially mediated by the years spent in paid work and the number of children. These findings are novel by suggesting heterogeneous impacts of the timing of motherhood on midlife earnings. They also call for a strengthening of policies that support early mothers' attachment to the labour market in the UK.

ID134 - Do women fare worse when men are around? Quasi-experimental evidence

María Cervini, Marcela Gomez, Xavier Ramos

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Abstract

We investigate the impact of a change in the gender composition of the pool of candidates on the academic performance of women in an entrance exam. We use data from a natural experiment that altered the gender composition of the candidates for a nation-wide admission exam to a coding educational program. Our identification strategy exploits the fact that both men and women were accepted for the admission exam in all years except for 2019, when only women were allowed to take it. Our results reveal that in the absence of men, women exhibit enhanced performance, particularly in subjects where men do traditionally better, such as mathematics and logical reasoning. Conversely, we observe no significant effects in verbal tasks, where men do not typically outperform. The improvement in performance stems from both increased attempts at questions and a higher rate of correct answers. Women improve their academic performance by exerting greater effort when men are not present. Our findings are consistent with the hypothesis that the stereotype threat is deactivated in the absence of men,

ID135 - Multigenerational Effects of Smallpox Vaccination

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Abstract

Can the effect of a positive health shock, such as childhood vaccination, transmit across three generations? To answer this question, we estimate the impact of smallpox vaccination in childhood on the longevity and occupational achievements of three generations using unique individual-level data from Sweden, covering the last 250 years. We apply different estimation strategies based on linear and non-linear probability models. To address endogeneity concerns, we construct a shift-share instrumental variable, utilizing the fact that vaccination in Sweden was administered by the low-skilled clergy, who otherwise did not perform public health duties. Overall, our results show that a positive shock to the health of the first generation, such as smallpox vaccination, operating through various channels, enhances both health and socio-economic outcomes for at least two more generations.

ID136 - Does a flexible parental leave system stimulate maternal employment?

Lennart Ziegler, Omar Bamieh

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Abstract

This study examines the effect of two recent parental leave reforms in Austria that allow parents to choose leave schemes with varying duration. Using a regression discontinuity design, we find that the introduction of more flexible scheme choices led mothers to take, on average, 1-2 months less of leave. This decrease in leave duration, however, was not accompanied by an employment increase of similar magnitude. To understand the absence of labor supply effects, we examine data on work preferences from the Austrian Microcensus. Child care duties are cited as the primary reason for not seeking work but few mothers indicate that they would start working if better access to formal childcare were available. Switching to the more flexible leave system had a minimal effect on the labor market choices of mothers, as the majority continue to prioritize child care responsibilities and do not consider nurseries as a desirable alternative.

ID137 - Lost in the Net? Broadband Internet and Youth Mental Health

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Abstract

How does the internet affect young people's mental health? We study this question in the context of Italy using administrative data on the universe of cases of mental disorders diagnosed in Italian hospitals between 2001 and 2013, which we combine with information on the availability of high-speed internet at the municipal level. Our identification strategy exploits differences in the proximity of municipalities to the pre-existing voice telecommunication infrastructure, which was previously irrelevant but became salient after the advent of the internet. We find that access to high-speed internet has a harmful effect on mental

health for young cohorts but not for older ones. In particular, internet access is associated with an increase in diagnoses of depression, anxiety, drug abuse, and personality disorders— for both males and females - and of eating and sleep disorders - for females only. We find similar results for urgent and compulsory hospitalizations and self-harm episodes. These results suggest that the effect of broadband is driven by a rise in the underlying prevalence of mental disorders and not merely by increased awareness about these pathologies.

ID138 - Does School Social Work Work? Evidence from Crime and Education

Katharina Drescher

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Abstract

I study the impact of school social workers on youth outcomes. In 2012, school social workers increased sharply due to a policy reform that provided state funding in Germany. Using the variation in the increase of school social workers and unique administrative crime data, I find that school social workers reduce youth crime rates, particularly property and violent crimes, by up to 20%. In addition, school social workers reduce the number of victims of violent crimes and uncover cases of sexual abuse. Effects on educational outcomes are limited, except for grade retention. The results emphasize the crucial role of school personnel, beyond teachers, in shaping the outcomes of young individuals.

ID140 - Pro-immigrant legislation and financial inclusion: The effects of sanctuary policies on the mortgage market

David Zuchowski

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Abstract

Does pro-immigrant legislation improve financial inclusion? This paper examines how granting safe havens for immigrants impacts Hispanics' financial behavior and discrimination against them in the U.S. mortgage market. To identify the effect, I take advantage of the staggered implementation of sanctuary policies across counties between 2010 and 2021. Using an event study approach, I find that sanctuary policies increase the demand for mortgages among Hispanics. I also find evidence of a decrease in the rejection rates of mortgage loans requested by Hispanics in counties that implemented sanctuary policies. Politically volatile and Republican-leaning states are the main drivers of the reduction in this potential discriminatory behavior. Taken together, the findings underscore the importance of inclusive public policies in promoting financial inclusion of immigrants.

ID141 - US Families' Changing Responses to College Costs: Less Borrowing, More Co-residence*

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Abstract

State public college tuition and fees rose sharply through the 2000s and early 2010s but plateaued from 2016 through 2023. Students may respond to tuition increases by spending less time in school, borrowing more, working while in college, cutting back expenses during or after school, or, relatedly, living with their parents. We investigate how young Americans absorbed increased college costs in the 2000s and in the 2010s. Exploiting state-cohort variation in tuition increases, we find that 2000s student cohorts accommodated tuition shocks not by forgoing college education, but instead by amassing more debt. 2010s student cohorts, by contrast, did not increase their college borrowing in response to tuition increases and showed modest declines in educational investment. In distinct single-year-of-age analysis for ages 24 to 32, we find that both 2000s and 2010s students were more likely to live with their parents in their mid- and late-twenties in response to higher college costs, with 2010s students substantially more likely to do so than 2000s students. Stock analysis of co-residence suffers from potential biases related to youth and parent neighborhood characteristics. Our administrative panel data also allow us to estimate co-residence responses in terms of flows to independence and flows home. Estimated increases in co-residence with higher college costs are driven primarily by the flow home to parents after college, and this flow home is particularly pronounced for youth in their mid-to-late twenties in the 2010s.

ID144 - The Impact of Early Public Childcare on Child Penalties

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Abstract

This paper examines the effects of early public childcare provision on parents' labor market outcomes following childbirth. Through a series of reforms beginning in 2005, the German government has substantially expanded public childcare for children under the age of three. Leveraging regional variation in the timing and intensity of this expansion at the county level and using social security administrative data, we uncover several key findings. First, our estimates suggest that a 10 percentage point increase in early public childcare coverage reduces mothers' child penalty in earnings by 1.5-2.3 percentage points during the five years following childbirth. Between 2007 and 2014, mothers' child penalty in earnings decreased by around 11 percentage points, particularly in West Germany, and our estimates imply that approximately 27-41% of this decline is attributable to childcare expansion. Second, this reduction in maternal earnings penalty results from various channels, including increased working days and hours, higher daily wages, and a greater likelihood of employment in higher-paying firms and occupations. Third, the effects on earnings, wages, and mobility persist for up to seven years after childbirth and the overall effects are more pronounced for low- and mid-income mothers. Fourth, early childcare expansion increases fathers' parental leave take-up and reduces their working days, although it does not significantly impact their earnings. Our findings suggest that expanding public childcare for very young children can improve gender equality in both labor markets and households.

ID145 - Time or Money? Togetherness and Intrahousehold Allocation.

Wenqi Lu

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Abstract

Joint experience between partners, or togetherness in the household, is one of the major gains from marriage. Despite its importance, our understanding of the trade-off between togetherness and the allocation of resources within the household, and its relation with gender differences, is still limited. To enhance understanding of the underlying mechanisms of household behaviours, we propose a collective model with home production of togetherness outcomes to account for joint leisure and monetary expenditure that spouses spend on togetherness. We apply our model to married couples in the Netherlands to quantify the value they attach to togetherness and the relation of money/time investment. We find that the wives value children's welfare, living environment and togetherness more than their husbands do, which explains the gender differences in intrahousehold time allocation and market work. Moreover, we show that joint leisure time and monetary expenditure spent on togetherness are substitutes and that married couples are more willing to increase their money investment rather than joint time for togetherness when their wage increases, which is the counter-example of schedule synchronization between married couples.

ID147 - Dynamics in Employment and Income Before and After Transgender Transitioning: Evidence from Dutch Administrative Data

Elisa de Weerd¹, John Cawley², Hans van Kippersluis¹

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Abstract

This paper estimates the changes in labor market and health outcomes before and after legal gender transitioning. Using individual-level administrative panel data from the Netherlands over the period 2014-2022, we identify nearly 6,500 legal gender transitions, defined as the change of gender marker on one's birth certificate. Data on employment and health care utilization are drawn from administrative records.

Using an event study approach with a sample of the general population serving as controls, we find changes in economic outcomes after transitioning, and important differences between those transitioning female-to-male (FTM) versus male-to-female (MTF). For both groups, employment and earned income decrease in the years preceding their legal gender transition. They differ, however, in dynamics after transitioning. For those transitioning FTM, there are increases in employment and income 5 or more years after transitioning; in contrast, for those transitioning MTF, employment and income remain significantly lower 3-4 years after transitioning, and are not significantly higher 5 or more years post-transition.

The results provide information about dynamics in economic outcomes around legal gender transitions, and demonstrate that there can be meaningful differences for those transitioning FTM versus MTF.

ID148 - *Men first*. Gender differences in career speeds in Italian academia

Silvia Pasqua, Marianna Filandri, Anna Uboldi

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Abstract

Previous literature has shown that women are less likely than men to be promoted to full professor positions. The significant gender gap in career advancements in academia results from many factors, including discrimination against female researchers in recruitment and promotion. We use data on the Italian academic population to describe men's and women's career paths. Using a multinomial logit model for the sub-sample of all associate professors who obtained the National Scientific Qualification (NSQ) for full professorship, we show that women are not only less likely to be promoted to the highest rungs of the academic ladder but are also promoted later than their male colleagues, and this is true even when controlling for scholarly productivity: men always come first. A slower career translates into a significant but often disregarded loss in life-long earnings, generating a gender income gap even in a university system with a fixed wage scale, such as the Italian one. Interviews with a random sample of 34 Italian female professors, some with fast careers, others with a slow career or not (yet) promoted full professor, show a weak collective awareness of the systematic gender discrimination highlighted by the data and a total lack of reporting of economic issues in terms of gender inequality.

ID149 - In-Person Schooling and Juvenile Violence

Benjamin Hansen¹, Kyutaro Matsuzawa², [Joseph J. Sabia](#)³

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Abstract

While investments in schooling generate large private and external returns, negative peer interactions in school may generate substantial social costs. Using data from four national sources (Uniform Crime Reports, National Incident-Based Reporting System, National Crime Victimization Survey, National Electronic Injury Surveillance System) and a variety of identification strategies, this study comprehensively explores the effect of in-person schooling on contemporaneous juvenile violence. Using a proxy for in-person schooling generated from anonymized smartphone data and leveraging county-level variation in school calendars — including unique, large, localized changes to in-person instruction during the COVID-19 pandemic — we find that in-person schooling is associated with a 28 percent increase in juvenile violent crime. A null finding for young adults is consistent with a causal interpretation of this result. The effects are largest in larger schools and in jurisdictions with weaker anti-bullying policies, consistent with both concentration effects and a peer quality channel. Back-of-the-envelope calculations suggest that relative to closed K-12 schools, in-person schooling generates \$233 million in monthly violent crime costs.

ID150 - The Industrial Robotics Revolution and Crime: New Evidence from Automation Shocks

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Abstract

This study is the first to explore a potentially important external cost of automation: criminal arrests. Using data from the Uniform Crime Reports (UCR) and the International Federation of Robotics (IFR), we leverage county-level variation in exposure to industry-specific foreign-based robotics shocks to study the effects of US robotics expansions on property and violent crime arrests. Instrumental variables (IV) estimates show that one additional robot per 1,000 workers is associated with a 4 to 6 percent increase in property crime arrests, while having no discernible impact on violent crime arrests. These arrest effects are consistent with robotics-induced declines in employment and earnings among low-skilled manufacturing workers. Back-of-the-envelope calculations suggest that a 10 percent increase in robotics over the period under study generated approximately \$175 million (2022\$) in additional annual crime costs.

ID155 - “Can Public Policies Break the Gender Mold? Evidence from Paternity Leave Reforms in Six Countries”

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Abstract

We investigate the impact of paternity leave policies on gender role attitudes in the next generation. We measure gender-stereotypical attitudes using an Implicit Association Test with 3,000 online respondents in six countries. Using an RD design, we observe a significant reduction (-0.20 SD) in gender-stereotypical attitudes among men born post-paternity leave implementation. This shift influences career choices, as men whose fathers were affected by the reform are more inclined to pursue counter-stereotypical jobs, particularly in high-skilled occupations like healthcare and education. Our findings highlight how paternity leave fosters egalitarian gender norms and affects the occupational choices of the next generation.

ID156 - Hiring subsidies and temporary work agencies

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Abstract

This paper evaluates a hiring subsidy for lower-educated youth in Flanders (Belgium) that reduced labour costs by 10% to 15% for a period of two years. The hiring subsidy did not improve the job finding rate of eligible job seekers. We offer a novel explanation for this null finding. We first document that temporary work agencies obtained about 25% to 34% of the subsidies, and hired almost 40% of the subsidised job seekers. We then show that agencies did not respond to the policy by increasing the wages of subsidised workers. Remarkably, despite a 2.8% labour cost reduction, agencies employed 8% fewer eligible individuals after the reform. Our findings highlight the role of temporary work agencies in shaping the effectiveness of active labour market policies targeted at disadvantaged groups.

ID158 - Planning Better: Unplanned Pregnancies, Parental Investments, and Newborn Outcomes

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Abstract

Unintended pregnancies, more prevalent among disadvantaged households, exacerbate existing challenges, setting the newborn on a lifetime course of disparities. Yet, policies addressing socioeconomic inequalities often overlook the consequences of the decision to have a child. In this study, using geolocated birth data and leveraging the staggered adoption of a nationwide contraceptive policy carried out in Uruguay, we estimate the effect of better contraceptive accessibility on the number of births and birth characteristics. We focus particularly on the effect of the policy on unplanned pregnancies, parental investment, and newborn health outcomes. By estimating differences in differences and event study specifications, we find an average 14% reduction in the number of births in the five years post-policy, which reaches a 30% decline towards the end of the analyzed period. This collapse in the number of births is guided by younger, less educated women, as well as by those with more than two children. We also find a significant decrease in unplanned pregnancies of 23% on average and a noteworthy 4%- 6% increase in measures of parental investment during the gestation period. Finally, we find suggestive evidence of improvements in neonatal health outcomes

ID159 - Expected Gender Differences in Exit and Voice - Evidence from a Factorial Survey Experiment among Employees in German Firms

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Abstract

Although recent literature shows that women are becoming more aware of unfair wages, how they respond to unfair pay is crucial to reducing wage inequality by gender. We use a factorial survey experiment (FSE) among more than 4,800 employees from 533 German firms to analyze how respondents rate the expected reactions to perceived unfair pay (*exit* and *voice*) of co-workers in similar positions. Our results show that employees are more often expecting their colleagues to *exit* than to raise their *voice* and that this expectation is prevailing among men and women particularly with regard to their female co-workers. Working in a supportive environment can be a way to overcome these expectations. Accordingly, we find that women working with a female supervisor are more likely to expect their female co-workers to raise their *voice*.

ID160 - Wealth Formation among Siblings in Germany: The Importance of Demography and Family Socioeconomic Status

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Abstract

Inequality in the opportunity to attain wealth is an essential indicator of social rigidity in a society. This study examines inequality in the opportunity to attain wealth in Germany by considering sibling similarity in wealth and how it is shaped by family demographic behavior in partnering, fertility, mortality, and geographical proximity compared to family socioeconomic status. We use multilevel models and variance decomposition and draw on high-quality, nationally representative survey data from the Socio-Economic Panel Study to estimate gender-specific sibling correlations in wealth. The sibling correlation in individual-level net wealth ranks is 0.34 in Germany, which is similar to earlier results from Sweden and the US. In contrast to these other contexts, sister similarity is higher than brother similarity in Germany. For brothers, sibling similarity in individual-level wealth is lower than similarity in household-level wealth. For sisters, the opposite is the case. While we find heterogeneity in sibling similarity by family demographic behavior, the overall contribution of demographic behavior to the observed sibling similarity is substantially smaller than that of family socioeconomic status.

ID161 - Inherited Gender Norms and Cognitive Functioning in Later Life: An Analysis of Second-Generation Immigrants

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Abstract

This paper investigates the relationship between gender norms and the cognitive gender gap among older individuals. We use data from the Survey of Health, Ageing and Retirement in Europe (SHARE) and the Integrated Values Surveys (IVS) to examine how gender differences in cognitive functioning among second-generation immigrants are related to gender norms in their parents' country of birth. This approach allows to identify the effect of social norms while holding the institutional background fixed. Our results indicate that more conservative gender norms in the parents' country of birth are associated with lower cognitive test scores for women compared to men. Further explorations suggest that gender differences in the type of occupation partly explain this relationship. This study highlights that policies aiming at promoting gender equality might have important implications for the cognitive health of older women.

ID164 - Heat Stress and Labor Market Inequality

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²Maastricht University, Maastricht, Netherlands

Abstract

Using administrative public health insurance records for one-third of the German working-age population, we link the quasi-experimental occurrence of heat waves by postal code over more than a decade to increases in sick leave and assess the implications for labor market inequality. On an average hot day, the number of sick leave cases increases by about 3.1%. With enduring heat exposure over five consecutive days, the effect grows by more than half. Heat-induced sick leaves distribute highly unevenly. Those who are already disadvantaged in terms of their income and working conditions are more vulnerable to heat stress. Workers who are more flexible in scheduling and adjusting their working hours are less at risk. Heat can also lead to fewer cases of absence in some workers. We document that female-dominated occupations with high interpersonal interaction exhibit fewer sick leaves because of less respiratory infections on hot days.

ID165 - The agglomeration effect: The role of intangible intensive industries

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Abstract

The understanding of firms in modern economies requires the inclusion of intangible capital assets as production factors in addition to the conventional tangible capital stock. Intangibles have been shown to contribute to the value of the firm, often more than tangibles, and are an important source of productivity growth. Our contribution is to investigate how intangibles influence agglomeration effects. Based on classification of industries by characteristics of capital assets, we analyze how the urban wage premium varies between industries dependent on intangible capital intensity. The agglomeration literature has shown the importance of selection of workers into cities and that the higher urban wage premium is concentrated to the college educated. We study the role of intangibles for workers separating by levels of educational achievements. Given rich administrative data for Norway for the period 2003–2014 with experience data back to 1993, we find that both the static and the dynamic agglomeration effect are higher for workers in intangible intensive industries. Industry composition of cities matters. Low- and high-educated workers have the same additional benefit of working in intangible intensive industries in large cities relative to other industries. In an analysis of the selection effect comparing distributions of worker fixed effects, we show that the positive selection of high-ability workers into large cities is driven by workers in intangible intensive industries.

ID166 - Adversarial economic preferences predict right-wing voting

Thomas Buser

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Abstract

I analyze Dutch panel data that contains rich information on voting, political opinions, and personality traits. I show that “adversarial” preferences – competitiveness, negative reciprocity, distrust, and selfishness – are strong predictors of right-wing and populist political preferences. Their explanatory power is similar to that of a rich set of socioeconomic status indicators – including income, education and occupation – and robust to non-parametrically controlling for them. I replicate previously studied associations between classic personality traits and political preferences, and show that adversarial preferences predict voting independently from these traits – and often with larger effect sizes. The complex Dutch party landscape allows me to go further than simple left-right comparisons to differentiate parties along an economic left-right axis, a social progressive-conservative axis, and a populism axis. Competitiveness predicts voting for economically right-wing parties, whereas negative reciprocity, distrust, and selfishness are stronger predictors of voting for socially conservative and populist parties.

ID168 - Keeping Up with the Computers: How Vocational Training Responds to New Technology

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Abstract

We examine how advancing digital technology impacts the occupational training and skill acquisition of vocationally trained workers in Germany, and the labor market consequences of updated training for workers. We construct a novel database of legally binding training curricula descriptions and changes therein, spanning the near universe of vocational training in Germany over five decades. To identify the effect of technological change on educational content, vocational curricula are linked to patents with Natural Language Processing techniques. Updates in vocational training are spurred by technological advances, with curriculum content evolving towards less routine intensive tasks, and higher use of digital technology as well as social skills. Using administrative employer-employee data, we plan to analyze whether this educational updating helps workers adjust to changing skill demands, and affects wages and employment outcomes compared to workers with outdated skills.

ID169 - Postponement, career development and fertility rebound

Natacha Raffin

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Abstract

We use an overlapping generations setup with two reproductive periods to explore how fertility decisions may differ in response to economic incentives in early and late adulthood. In particular, we analyze the interplay between fertility choices---related to career opportu\-nities---and wages, and investigate the role played by late fertility. We show that young adults only postpone parenthood above a certain wage threshold and that late fertility increases with investment in human capital. The long run trend is either to a low productivity equilibrium, involving high early fertility, no investment in human capital and relatively low income, or to a high productivity equilibrium, where households postpone parenthood to invest in their human capital, with higher late fertility and higher levels of income. A convergence to the latter state would explain the postponement of parenthood and the fertility rebound observed in Europe in recent decades.

ID171 - School starting age and educational mismatch

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Abstract

The impact of early childhood on educational mismatch remained largely unstudied in previous literature, although it has been shown to exert a long-lasting effect on later-life outcomes. We fill this gap in the literature and focus on the effect of school starting age on one's extent of educational mismatch, more precisely, the years exceeding or falling short of the required extent of education. Based on data from the German Socio-Economic Panel, we investigate the effect of starting school relatively younger or older than one's peers through the exogenous variation created by German school entry laws. Applying regression discontinuity designs, we show that school starting age increases the extent of educational mismatch.

ID173 - How Selectivity Shapes Selection

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Abstract

This field experiment investigates how stressing selectivity at career information events affects the diversity, size, and quality of the applicant pool. While the total number of applications is not affected by stressing selectivity, it discourages female participants and children of migrants from applying, implying a "diversity cost". Treated participants perceive their (also treated) peers to behave more competitively at the event. In groups where selectivity is stressed, male participants are noticed more often by the company-staff as desirable applicants by showing interest and participating actively. In contrast, I find the opposite treatment-effect for female participants. I find no significant effect on the applicants' perception of the work environment or the quality of the applicant pool. If anything, suggestive evidence points to female applicants being less qualified if they have been subject to treatment.

ID175 - Can resources alter the development path of a low birth weight child?

Cheti Nicoletti¹, Kjell Salvanes², Emma Tominey¹, [Francesca Zantomio](#)³

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Abstract

A large literature has established a causal link between child birth weight and long life human capital. In this paper we ask to what extent household resources are able to insure the child against this early life health shock. We address the double endogeneity of birth weight and resources by using twin difference estimation on the one hand which leads to exogenous variation in birth weight. On the other hand, we exploit a natural resource boom from the 70s Norwegian Oil Shock, which resulted in a semi-permanent income shock. Using Norwegian Registry data, linked to the Medical Birth Registry, results suggest that exposure to the oil shock attenuates the effect of birth weight on a range of human capital outcomes, including schooling and earnings. A mechanism through which the oil shock protects children against low birth weight shocks is fathers income, with little or no role coming from public expenditure.

ID176 - Job Loss and the Distributional Effects of Self-Employment Spells

Fabiano Dal-Ri

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Abstract

It is well established that job loss has a negative impact on workers' career trajectories, but little is known about the mediating effect of transitions into self-employment. Using a rich data set of the universe of formal employment records in Brazil matched with detailed data on business ownership, I leverage mass displacement events to investigate the link between job loss, self-employment, and reemployment. I focus my analysis around a policy change in 2009 that significantly reduced barriers to microenterprise formation (i.e. formal self-employment). Prior to the policy change, the self-employment path after a job dismissal was primarily followed by high-income workers. After the reform, low-income workers closed one-third of this gap. While both high- and low-income workers who take the self-employment path are 63-65p.p. less likely to return to wage employment, there are significant distributional effects for those who eventually do return. High-income workers face a wage penalty of 12 log points, while the estimates are non-significant for low-income workers, who are partially shielded from large losses due to minimum wage regulations. The 2009 policy change, while making formal self-employment more attractive, does not appear to alter these reemployment patterns. My results are consistent with self-employment being an important option for distressed workers facing job loss, especially those at the bottom of the income distribution.

ID177 - The Causal Impact of Maternal Educational Curricula on Infant Health at Birth

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Abstract

We provide the first causal evidence of the returns of mothers' high school curricula to children's health at birth. Educational programs that aim to deliver more general knowledge may improve women's earning potential and maternal prenatal investment by increasing the portability of skills across occupations and enhancing women's ability to make informed decisions about fertility options and health behavior. We study the impacts on infant health outcomes of a comprehensive education reform in Spain that postponed students' curriculum choices and integrated more general education into the high school curriculum. Using a dose-response difference-in-differences (DiD) research design applied to linked population registers, we find that the reform led to a significant reduction in the incidence of very low birth weight (less than 1,500 grams) and very preterm birth (less than 33 weeks gestation). Overall, the positive effects of the reform on infant health at birth seem to be driven by increased labor market opportunities for mothers and better family planning, rather than by a greater ability to avoid risky behaviors or an increase in women's earnings through different occupational choices or assortative mating.

ID179 - Can Paid Family Leave impact Abortion Rates? Evidence from New York

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Abstract

As state Paid Family Leave (PFL) programs continue to roll out across the United States, previous work has sought to investigate their impacts on economic, child, and maternal outcomes, including fertility. Still unexplored however is the influence they may have on abortion. We hence utilise the Synthetic-Difference-in-Differences estimator developed by Arkhangelsky et al. (2021) to estimate the effect of New York's PFL program (NY-PFL) on abortion rates. Using abortion data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, we find that the launch of NY-PFL in 2018 led to a 13.6% decrease in abortion rates per 1,000 women for the 20-39 age group, with smaller effects observed for older subgroups. Event-study estimates reveal that this decrease intensified from an initial 7.1% decline in 2018-19 to 13.6% in 2021, while a series of robustness checks underline the significance of our findings. Our exercise contributes further evidence towards the deliberation of state PFL programs.

ID181 - Family Stress and the Intergenerational Correlation in Self-Control

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Abstract

We examine the correlation in trait self-control between parents and their young-adult children. Using 20 years of rich, nationally representative, panel data from Australia, we exploit variation in the family environment during childhood to assess how family stress related to parenting responsibilities, the quality of parents' relationship, finances, and poor mental health affect the transmission of self-control across generations. A finite mixture variant of a latent class model is used to examine unobserved heterogeneity in the drivers of young adults' self-control. We find that family stress – both of mothers and of fathers – is important in understanding the extent to which self-control is transmitted from parents to their children, opening the door for family stress to shape the intergenerational transmission of disadvantage through self-control formation.

ID183 - COVID-19, Crises and Women's Control of Resources: Evidence from Mexico

Jose Casco

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Abstract

This paper examines the relationship between crises and the intra-household allocation of resources. Using data from Mexico, I estimate a structural collective model to identify the distribution of household resources among its members. Then, I construct a proxy for women's bargaining power based on their control of resources and document how it evolves over periods of economic stability and contraction. The results suggest that during the COVID-19 crisis, women's control of resources decreased relative to the non-recession period (4-5 percentage points) and the financial crisis (6-8 percentage points), with a more pronounced effect for households with children. I further analyze how this resource reallocation affects household consumption and individual poverty. The findings highlight the heterogeneous behavior of intra-household inequality over the business cycle. It also suggests that the hypothesis that the financial crisis was a "man-cession" and the COVID-19 crisis was a "she-cession" holds in terms of intra-household resource allocation.

ID187 - Children's Time Allocation and the Socioeconomic Gap in Human Capital

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Abstract

Children's time investments in various activities may be important for reducing socioeconomic status (SES) gaps in educational and mental health outcomes. Using detailed time use diaries of Australian children aged 4-14, we observe that children from low SES backgrounds spend more time on digital media and less time on cognitively stimulating out-of-school activities, organised or for leisure. We explain the SES gap by employing a human capital development panel model and find that this difference contributes about 4% to the observed SES gap in numeracy skills. The results are supported by exogeneity tests and numerous robustness checks. The contribution is larger for males, older age groups, and when the cumulative effect on learning is considered. No clear results are found for literacy skills and mental health outcomes. The findings imply that interventions promoting a shift away from digital media towards out-of-school educational activities or cognitive leisure activities could help reduce the SES gap in human capital.

ID188 - Stable marriage, household consumption and unobserved match quality

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Abstract

We present a methodology for the structural empirical analysis of household consumption and time use behaviour under marital stability. Without making use of the transferable utility assumption, but still allowing for consumption transfers between spouses, our method can identify individuals' unobserved match qualities and quantify them in money metric terms. Our approach is of the revealed preference type and non-parametric, meaning that it does not require a prior functional specification of individual utilities. We can include both preference factors, affecting individuals' preferences over private and public goods, and match quality factors, driving differences in unobserved match quality. We demonstrate the practical usefulness of our methodology through an application to the Belgian MEqIn data. Our results reveal intuitive patterns of unobserved match quality that allow us to rationalise both the observed matches and the within-household allocations of time and money.

ID190 - Health Shocks, Social Insurance, and Firms

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Abstract

We study the role that firms play in social insurance benefit uptake after their workers experience health shocks. Social insurance in our setting, Hungary, is universal and comprehensive, thus allowing us to quantify the heterogeneous impact of firms on benefit uptake and labor market outcomes on top of the social safety net. We find that firm responses to worker health shocks are heterogeneous both on the extensive and intensive margins. Workers hit by a health shock at high-quality firms are less likely to take up disability insurance or exit the labor force than those at low-quality firms. These empirical patterns are consistent with worker-firm match quality increasing in firm quality in a setting where recovery from health shocks is uncertain. Our results imply that beyond higher wages, high-quality firms also offer more protection against the consequences of health shocks. This suggests that heterogeneous firm behavior should be taken into account when designing social insurance policies.

ID191 - Childcare and maternal mental health

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¹Kela, the Social Insurance Institution of Finland, Helsinki, Finland. ²University of Turku, Turku, Finland

Abstract

This paper uses regional variation in cash-for-care eligibility rules to identify the causal effect of longer childcare leaves on maternal mental health. In addition, we exploit changes that increase the relative price of childcare for families with two or more children. We find that mothers' long childcare leaves increased, employment re-entry was delayed, and older siblings (3- to 5-year-old children) were less likely to attend public childcare. The mother's outpatient medicine purchases slightly decreased if all children received parental care. However, small gains in maternal mental health were offset by the large negative effect of longer childcare leaves. Longer childcare leaves increase mothers' antidepressant medicine purchases by 0.5-1 percentage points from 6-8 percent, and delayed employment re-entry.

ID193 - Returns to Tertiary Vocational Education in Italy

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Abstract

Using a unique panel of administrative data for the Lombardy region in Italy, we estimate returns to ITS, a novel tertiary vocational education track introduced in 2011 with the dual purpose of reducing the high level of NEETs and bridging the skill gap between competences of young workers and the skill needs of firms. Our empirical strategy relies on the comparison between ITS awardees and drop-outs, and the estimation of fixed-effects models that further control for individual time-trends. We find that receiving an ITS diploma, as opposed to not completing it, leads to a 16-percentage-point increase in the probability of employment and an 8-percentage-point improvement in the skill match between the field of study and occupation. Furthermore, our results reveal significant gender and technical area disparities. Males experience higher returns, and technical areas, particularly ICT and biotechnical courses, exhibit higher employment returns and improved occupation skill matches. Additionally, the effects of ITS vary based on the official quality assessments of the courses. The public evaluation of ITS courses is a distinctive feature of the Italian system. Overall, our results suggest that students who complete a high-quality ITS course have greater employment prospects and narrower skill gaps.

ID194 - Beyond the War on Drugs: Portugal's Drug Decriminalization and the Retornados Migration

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Abstract

What are the societal consequences of decriminalizing heroin, meth, cocaine, and cannabis? In this paper, I investigate the political, health, and criminal effects of Portugal's 2001 drug decriminalization reform. I evaluate the success of the policy estimating a difference-in-differences model, in which I exploit the timing of the reform and the share of retornados hailing from drug-producing countries Angola and Mozambique. The retornados were around 500,000 migrants who returned to Portugal from the colonies in the 1970s, laying out the foundations of the Portuguese drug market. Results show that political parties that supported the new policy saw a slight decrease in voting in the short run, but there is no evidence of long-term political effects. Drug-related hospital admission rates remained unaffected, while there was a reduction in theft and burglary rates. Altogether, I show that drug decriminalization is potentially welfare-improving, and politicians who advocate for it receive limited backlash in following elections.

ID197 - Educational attainment and fertility: Do genetic endowments matter?

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Abstract

A rich body of research has investigated the relationship between educational attainment and fertility. Yet, the genetic mechanisms, which can shape both educational attainment and fertility, remains overlooked. This study, first, exploits compulsory schooling age reform in the UK as a natural experiment to uncover the causal impact of education on fertility outcomes. Second, we interact the effect of the reform with polygenic indices of educational attainment and age at first birth, to examine whether the effect of educational attainment on the quantity and timing of fertility varies by genetic endowments. We find that staying one more year in school increases the age at first birth by more than one year without influencing the total number of children or the probability of remaining childless. The effect on fertility timing is entirely driven by the postponement of teenage births. When interacted with genetic propensity, our results indicate that the reform had been particularly effective on reducing the teenage motherhood for those who have genetic propensity to study less or give birth earlier.

ID199 - The impact of Short-time work during the Great Recession in Belgium.

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Abstract

This paper examines the effectiveness of Short-time work (STW) programs during the Great Recession in Belgium, the country with the highest uptake in Europe. While earlier studies have evaluated similar programs in other European countries during the same period, conclusions have varied based on the characteristics of treated firms and the persistence of economic shocks. Our study contributes to understanding the determinants of these findings. Leveraging novel administrative micro-aggregated data on program usage and exploiting exogenous variations in STW take-up through an institutional feature, we find, in line with existing literature, that STW effectively preserved jobs and increased working hours at least one year after the crisis onset in Belgium. This positive impact aligns with the observed positive effect on firm survival one year after the initial aggregate shock. Despite the persistent positive effect on employment in subsequent periods, this is not statistically significant for the average firm. Future analyses aim to identify the firms that benefited the most from the policy and assess the persistence of these effects over time.

ID200 - Persistent Effects of Social Program Participation on the Third Generation

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Abstract

Can participation in safety net programs have long-lasting negative effects across multiple generations? Prior work shows a 1993 Dutch disability insurance reform which tightened requirements and lowered benefits for participants resulted in better health and economic outcomes for their children. We study the third generation, finding that grandchildren of individuals whose DI eligibility and benefits were reduced are less likely to be born premature, have low birthweight, or experience complicated deliveries. They also have better health and schooling outcomes during early childhood. These adverse effects are consequential, having been linked to poorer health, education, and labor market outcomes in adulthood.

ID204 - Left over or opting out? Squeeze, mismatch and surplus in Chinese marriage markets

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Abstract

Marriage is rapidly declining in China. Among singles, the annual probability to marry was halved between 1999 and 2019. We estimate a Choo and Siow (2006) model using census data to quantify the relative roles of changes in population structure and changes in preferences. We find that (i) the deterioration of female-to-male ratio, known as the marriage squeeze, does not matter quantitatively; (ii) the increase in the supply of educated people explains 40% of the decline, partly due to a mismatch between educated women and less-educated men; (iii) the decrease in marital surplus explains the remaining 60%.

ID207 - Impacts of mothers' time on children's diets

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Abstract

This paper provides insights into how variances in time spent by mothers in home production (i.e., domestic and care work) impact children's diets. We test the hypothesis that a decrease in the time spent by mothers in home production negatively impacts children's diets. Moreover, we consider whether substitute caregivers and improved water infrastructure can reduce these impacts. We use primary data from women traders in three markets in Ghana. To overcome the empirical challenge in estimating the relationship, we focus on the differences in the time spent by traders in home production due to the differing demands on their time on "market" and "non-market" days. Market days are specified for markets in a given location and are characterized by heightened trading activity. A comparison of the diets of traders' children on market and non-market days allows for the attribution of effects to changes in the time spent by their mothers in home production. The results suggest that children of women traders are significantly less likely to have achieved Minimum Meal Frequency (MMF) and Minimum Acceptable Diet (MAD) on market days compared to non-market days. This is accompanied by fewer hours spent by women in home production on market days. However, the paper also finds evidence that in certain scenarios the negative effect of demands on women traders' time on children's diets can be mitigated by substitute caregivers and the availability of water infrastructure.

ID208 - Unpacking Parental Leave: The Role of Job Protection

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Abstract

Parental leave is one of the most important policies that shape the post-birth careers of women. We exploit a sequence of parental leave reforms in Germany that extended both the job protection period and the duration of parental leave benefits to different extents to study the effects of the two policy instruments parental leave consists of. Using administrative social security data, we first replicate the stylized facts that mothers respond to extensions in parental leave and that the average effect of longer leave-taking on their careers is negative. In a second step, we analyze the causal effects of job protection and parental benefit payments. Holding constant the length of mothers' post-birth labor market break, we show that extending job protection significantly reduces losses in long-run earnings while extensions of the benefit duration have no measurable impact. The positive effect of employment protection works both by enhancing employer continuity as well as by improving outside opportunities for mothers who change their employer.

ID209 - Born at the right time: Examining the impact of relative age on mental health in adulthood

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Abstract

This paper examines the understudied impact of relative age on adult mental health. Our empirical analysis uses Finnish nationwide register-based measures of mental health to capture a range of conditions, encompassing both severe and milder mental health problems. To tease out causal effects, we employ a regression discontinuity design centered around January 1st cut-off. Our results show that being born at the start of the year leads to better mental health. Notably, these effects, predominantly influenced by relative school starting age, are driven by middle-aged men and women in their late twenties.

ID210 - Unlocking Female Potential: How Parttime Work Transformed the (Dutch) Labor Market

Kyra Hanemaaijer¹, Esmee Zwiers²

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Abstract

Women's labor market participation has increased tremendously since the 1970s across industrialized countries, but gender differences in pay and occupations remain persistent. This paper examines how parttime work affected the gendered structure of the labor market as observed today. We focus on the Netherlands, a country characterized by high female labor force participation and a high prevalence of parttime work, and study two policy changes in 1982 and 2000 that expanded parttime work prospects. To estimate causal effects, we exploit sectoral differences in the incidence of parttime work before policy implementation as well as differences in labor market regulations driven by sector-specific collective bargaining agreements. We will combine sectoral variation with long-term individual-level data on employment outcomes, and document how parttime work transformed the labor market. Understanding the dynamics behind gendered labor market structures can guide policies aiming to reduce gender inequality in the labor market.

ID214 - How did de-unionization impact the German structure of earnings? A distributional approach using grouped quantile regressions

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Abstract

This paper provides a nuanced characterization of the impact of unions in terms of collective bargaining coverage on the structure of earnings in Germany, as well as on measures of between- and within-group inequality. Employing a novel methodological approach that accounts for the specific German institutional setting of wage bargaining at the sector-region level, several sources of effect heterogeneity across worker characteristics and the distribution of worker productivity are examined. The empirical analysis highlights that the prevalence of collective agreements at the sector-region level affects the relationship of real earnings with worker characteristics, particularly on earnings differentials between male and female workers, as well as between workers with medium and low educational attainment. It is demonstrated that the de-unionization in Germany between 1996 and 2014 accounts for a substantial fraction of the increase in both earnings differentials between as well as for the increase in inequality within worker-types.

ID218 - Effects of Increasing Disability Benefits on Employment, Earnings, and Mortality

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Abstract

We study the employment and welfare effects of disability insurance (DI) programs using unique policy variation in Germany. In 2014, disability benefits of new recipients were increased considerably while eligibility criteria were not changed. We leverage this quasi-experimental policy variation to estimate the effect of increasing disability benefits on recipient employment, earnings, and mortality outcomes using administrative data on the universe of new disability benefit recipients. Contrary to previous literature, our analysis reveals no significant impact on the employment and earnings of DI recipients due to the increased benefits. We furthermore find no effects on recipient mortality. We do however observe a notable reduction in old-age poverty risk, highlighting meaningful welfare implications of increased generosity.

ID220 - Childhood Mental Health Effects of Early-Life Exposure to Paternal Job Loss

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Abstract

We study the mental health effects of early life exposure to paternal job loss. Using nationwide individual-level administrative registry records, we focus on firm closure-induced job losses for fathers with children below age five in the Netherlands. These children are more likely to take mental health-related medicines in their later childhood, and this increase is mainly driven by psychostimulant drugs. The increased uptake of psychostimulants ranges from 15 percent of the mean uptake in the control group at age five to around 9 percent at age twelve. The effects are significantly larger for families with mothers being the main breadwinner. We further find that the father is more likely to take mental health medication around the time of job loss and that the children exposed to paternal job loss are more likely to live in dissolved families. We find no evidence of exposed children living in neighborhoods with different rates of psychostimulants consumption compared to control children, while parents of exposed children do report more impulsive and inattentive behavior. These findings indicate that family environment changes such as family dissolution and paternal mental distress are the most likely pathways leading to higher mental health medication usage among children exposed to early-life paternal job loss.

ID221 - How Important are Mental and Physical Health in Career and Family Choices?

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³RHUL, London, United Kingdom

Abstract

This paper estimates a discrete choice dynamic programming problem of female labor supply, marriage and fertility that explicitly incorporates mental and physical health. Correlated mental and physical health production functions are simultaneously estimated and also include the endogenous decisions to seek psychotherapy and smoke cigarettes as factors of production. The model is estimated by Indirect Inference using data from the British Household Panel Study. Structural estimates imply that a 1 standard deviation improvement in mental health increases wage offers by 1.2%. Being in good physical health increases wage offers by .6%. Better mental health has much stronger impacts on marriage and fertility outcomes. Counterfactual simulations also reveal that lower costs for psychotherapy would substantially increase female employment and earnings, especially after birth and divorce.

ID223 - Segregated Welfare: The Effects of Federal Public Housing

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Abstract

This project studies the impact of the first racially-segregated federal public housing projects in the United States. Using two research designs with alternative comparison groups, we can identify the causal effect of a discriminatory housing policy on the housing market and residential segregation. Our research will shed light on the government's contribution to urban inequality and structural racism through housing policies. The inclusion of the results in the working paper is pending as we are waiting for approval from the data owners (IPUMS and NBER).

ID228 - Delayed Childbearing and Urban Revival: A Structural Approach

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Abstract

This paper links the fast increase in income downtown, known as urban revival, to delayed childbearing. We show that young childless individuals value downtown the most. Thus, as high-skilled households delay childbearing, their presence downtown increases. This leads to higher housing prices and amenities, which reinforce sorting on income and amplify urban revival. We propose and estimate a structural dynamic model of fertility timing and within-city location choices. The estimation of the elasticity of amenities to the share of childless households exploits exogenous variation in access to infertility treatments. The increase in incentives to delay childbearing account for 40% of urban revival --7.5% through a fertility composition effect and the remaining through the endogenous response of housing prices and amenities.

ID229 - Too much of a good thing? The macro implications of excessive firm entry

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Abstract

Whether subsidies targeted at small firms have the potential to increase aggregate output by helping to overcome frictions or, on the contrary, distort the optimal firm size and reduce aggregate output remains an open question. This paper offers a comprehensive evaluation of a unique policy that subsidises the first employee. Empirically, we observe that the policy led to a surge in the number of firms employing exactly one employee, without a noticeable effect on the number of firms with two or more employees. A simple frictionless general equilibrium model of occupational choices predicts the empirical facts well. Leveraging our model, we show that general equilibrium effects on wages and aggregate output are likely to be small. The policy is, however, expensive, and most of the subsidies are captured by employers. Our findings support the traditional view that size-dependent subsidies distort the optimal allocation of resources.

ID231 - The Social Multiplier of Pension Reform

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Abstract

We study the influence of family members, neighbors and coworkers on individual retirement decisions. To estimate causal retirement spillovers between individuals, we exploit a pension reform in the Netherlands that creates exogenous variation in peers' retirement behavior, and we use administrative data on the full Dutch population. We begin by documenting large retirement spillovers between spouses, primarily due to women reacting to their husband's retirement choices. Consistent with homophily in social interactions, we find a modest influence of the average sibling, neighbor and coworker, but there are substantial spillover effects between similar individuals in these groups. Additional evidence suggests that retirement spillovers are driven both by leisure complementarities and social norms. Our findings imply that pension reforms can have a large social multiplier, amplifying their overall impact on retirement behavior.

ID233 - Gender Diversity in Research

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Abstract

Female leadership is unrepresented in the scientific profession. This affects the profession and the scientific knowledge that is generated and transmitted into the society. Although these are well documented facts, little is known about the effectiveness of policies targeted at reducing this gender bias. Using administrative data on more than 4,000 research groups that apply for funding in Catalonia in 2014, 2017 and 2021, we exploit the effects of a policy that promotes women in research. The policy, that was first introduced in the 2021 call, conditions 2.5% of the evaluation points for groups led by women and 2.5% for groups with more than 40% of female researchers. Our results reveal that the policy increased the probability of applying as well as the probability of getting funded for groups led by women. Using additional data on evaluators, we also show that the affirmative action policy is more effective in promoting female talent than a policy that increases the number of female reviewers.

ID234 - The Long-Term Effects of Military Occupations: Evidence from Post-World War II Austria

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Abstract

How does military occupation affect long-term economic development? We use the post-World War II occupation of Austria as a laboratory setting. Austria was divided into different occupation zones for ten years. The Soviet occupation was exploitative, while the Western Allied occupation was more supportive. After ten years of different occupation regimes, the regions returned to a single nation-state. We estimate the effect of different occupation regimes on long-term economic development. Methodologically, we combine a spatial regression discontinuity design with a difference-in-differences approach. We find that areas in the former Soviet zone are still less economically developed today. These areas are less populated, host fewer and lower paying jobs, and their residents are more likely to commute outside the former Soviet zone. The most plausible mechanism for these long-lasting effects are agglomeration effects triggered by a large migration shock from East to West as the population fled the advancing Soviet army.

ID236 - Breaking Barriers: The Impacts of Employer Exposure to Immigrants

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Abstract

We study how exposure of employers to immigrants, both at the market and at the individual firm level, mitigates immigrant-native disparities. We use administrative employee-employer matched data from Portugal, which provides a unique setting given that it experienced almost no immigration until the early 2000s followed by substantial immigration waves. Focusing on the evolution of market wages across successive immigration cohorts, we find that increased employer exposure to immigrant groups can account for up to 25% of the wage convergence between immigrants and natives over the last two decades. We also document that individual-level exposure of firms to immigrants plays an important role, influencing future hiring and remuneration of immigrants. Our results provide new insights into how barriers to hiring different worker groups shape economic inequality, with novel implications for integration policies.

ID237 - Workplace Peer Effects in Fertility Decisions

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Abstract

This paper studies the effects on individuals' fertility of the fertility behavior of their co-workers. Using matched employer-employee data from the Italian Social Security Institute (INPS) for the years 2016-2020, we estimate how the fertility rate among co-workers of the same age group and in the same occupation affects a worker's likelihood of having a child. We exploit the variation in workplace peer fertility induced by the Jobs Act reform, which weakened employment protection – and therefore reduced the fertility rate – for the employees affected, i.e. those in larger firms hired on open-ended contracts after 7 March 2015. Our analysis focuses on similar workers hired before the Jobs Act and uses the fraction of co-workers hired after 7 March 2015 as an instrumental variable for average peer fertility. We find that a 1-percentage-point reduction in the average peer fertility at year $t-1$ leads to a reduction in the individual probability of having a child at year t by 0.3 to 0.4 percentage points, or a 10% reduction in average fertility. Heterogeneity analysis suggests that while workplace peer effects may operate primarily through social influence and social norms, information sharing and career concerns tend to attenuate individuals' responses to the fertility of their co-workers, especially among women. Our findings also help to understand the potential spillovers that employment protection reforms may have on fertility rates through social interactions.

ID238 - German Firms' Responses to Trade Shocks from the East

Thomas Cornelissen, Marco Francesconi, Bin Yu

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Abstract

We study how German manufacturing establishments adjust their labour inputs in response to trade shocks from the rising trade integration of China and Eastern Europe over the 1988-2010 period. Using administrative establishment-level data, we find that firms' workforce expands with increased export exposure, but contracts facing import competition. Export exposure also increases establishment survival, while import competition reduces it. Small and medium-sized firms react the most, using hiring as the primary margin to adjust employment growth. Positive trade shocks increase employment particularly for medium-skilled full-time workers and apprentices, and more for male than female workers. If other firms in the same local labour market are also subject to positive trade shocks, then firms adjust more by reducing separations rather than increased hiring, and find it harder to hire apprentices. Employment responses to trade shock are moderated by proxies for firm quality, and firms' experience in R&D and apprenticeship training. Our findings on wage adjustments also suggest that export exposure plays a role in increasing wage inequality both within and between establishments.

ID239 - Demographic and Political Transitions

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Abstract

This paper revisits the political economy of transitions to democracy. We build on a canonical rational choice model of democratization by introducing demography, arguing that the demographic structure of a society shapes the material incentives for a democratic movement. A population's youth cohort can benefit from democratic improvements over a longer time horizon and may have a lower opportunity cost of participating in democratic movements than older cohorts. Hence, a rise in the population's proportion of youth during the demographic transition opens a democratic "window of opportunity" as the heightened incentives for a democratic movement might encourage an autocratic elite to concede more democracy. We test this prediction on two long country-year panel data sets containing detailed demographic data. Fixed-effects panel regressions demonstrate that an increase in the youth ratio is robustly associated with democratic improvements. The effect is particularly pronounced for "youth bulges" measured as the proportion of the population between the ages of 15 and 19. Two distinct instrumental variable strategies, using (i) lagged fertility rates in neighboring countries and (ii) past climatic conditions, allow for a causal interpretation of this correlation. Furthermore, the positive impact of the youth ratio on democratic improvements is more pronounced during recessions suggesting that demographic and macro-economic factors should be considered as complementary channels. Finally, we show that low intensity conflict, such as riots, might act as a transmission channel, facilitating the positive impact of a high youth ratio on the probability of a democratic improvement.

ID241 - Bounding the Child Penalty

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Abstract

I investigate the impact of parenthood on women's outcomes and gender disparities in the labor market. I introduce an estimator that bounds average effects while addressing both selection and dynamic effects. My method leverages the randomness in the success of fertility treatments without imposing additional assumptions on the selection into treatments or the dynamic structure of the effects. The approach I propose extends beyond the child penalty and is applicable to other settings where individuals are (quasi-)randomly assigned but may transition to different states either through selection or (quasi-)random re-assignment. Applying my estimator to administrative Dutch data, I find a substantial negative effect of children on women's labor market outcomes persisting for at least five years after conception. However, this effect cannot account for more than half of the aggregate gender inequality in work hours and income. Additionally, I find that delaying parenthood, contrary to what is often stipulated, exhibits a positive contemporaneous effect on women's labor market outcomes. Lastly, I introduce two extensions to assess the bias in other popular estimators for the child penalty. My results suggest that while family-friendly policies might alleviate gender inequality, their effectiveness could be limited because a large part of it is likely not caused by children per se.

ID244 - Long–Run Effects of Technological Change: The Impact of Automation and Robots on Intergenerational Mobility

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Abstract

This paper examines whether advancements in automation and robotics have affected intergenerational income mobility. Using detailed data on all individuals and firms in Sweden from 1985 to 2017, we analyze how parental exposure to robots at the occupational level and the heterogeneous adoption of robots across industries influence children's outcomes in adulthood. Our results show that parents' occupational exposure to robots is associated with lower income mobility for their children. Taking into account exposure at the occupational and industry levels, we find that the negative impact on intergenerational mobility originates from industries with a relatively large increase in robot adoption. Our results also indicate that children with exposed parents are worse off with regard to several labor market and family-related outcomes, including higher risks of unemployment and being out of the labor force. Overall, our paper reveals a new determinant that shapes intergenerational mobility and highlights that advancements in automation and robotics can have long-lasting effects on society.

ID246 - Making the Right Call: The Heterogeneous Effects of Individual Performance Pay on Productivity

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Abstract

Performance pay has been shown to have important implications for worker and firm productivity. In this study, we apply a dynamic difference-in-differences estimator to estimate the causal effects of the introduction of a generous bonus pay program with salient performance thresholds on incentivized and non-incentivized performance outcomes in a call center. On average, the performance pay program did not affect workers' performance. We show, however, that this result conceals an underlying heterogeneity in the response to performance pay: High-skilled workers are more likely to meet the performance targets, while low-skilled workers are less likely to do so and might even perform worse in the non-incentivized outcome. The findings can be rationalized with the idea that the costs of effort differ for individual workers. We also explore whether agents alter their overtime hours and find a negative effect, possibly avoiding lower call quality through longer working hours.

ID247 - Cohabiting, Childbirth and Child Human Capital

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Abstract

The US and European countries have experienced dramatic changes in family formation in recent decades, with more parents in a partnership choosing to have a child without marrying first. As this fall out from marriage is predominantly a low socio-economic status phenomenon, it can lead to an exacerbation of inequalities in child human capital formation if, as suggested by the theoretical literature, gains from marriage improve outcomes of children. Using the population of Norwegian children born between 1997-2001 we use the marginal treatment effect framework to identify whether and why marital status of parents at birth drives middle childhood and adolescent outcomes. The results suggest that there is a gain from marriage, which improves child's test score by 14-16\% of a standard deviation. Decomposing the treatment effect suggest that the source of this positive treatment effect is through higher wealth - where an increase in wealth raises both selection into marriage and the gains from marriage for children.

ID248 - Geographical Mobility as a Bridge to Opportunity:Evidence from the Spanish Military Service

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Abstract

We investigate the impact of a temporary mobility shock on individuals' future migration decisions and labor market achievements. Our strategy exploits the random assignment of conscripts to various geographic locations within the Spanish military service. Utilizing data gathered from a nationally representative survey, we find that conscripts stationed in regions distinct from their own exhibit a notably increased likelihood of undertaking future migration. Additionally, we observe that those who were deployed outside their native region were more likely to secure employment and work longer hours per week. Our findings indicate that a transient mobility experience during early adulthood can have a favorable influence on future migration patterns and labor market outcomes.

ID249 - School Closures and Parental Labor Supply: Differential Effects of Anticipated and Unanticipated Closures

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Abstract

This paper studies how COVID-19 pandemic school closures affected the employment outcomes of parents in Switzerland. We find that men with children increased their hours worked while women with children reduced theirs as compared to men and women without children. This suggests that the burden of increased child care needs due to lack of in-person schooling fell primarily on mothers. And in contrast to earlier recessions where men were more greatly affected, and where women increased their hours worked due to the added worker effect, the reverse is seen in the wake of COVID-19. To show that the effects we find result from the labor supply shock and not from any labor demand shock, we use a novel index of occupations classifying their resiliency to the pandemic measures and estimate our model on different occupational subsamples. Our results are strongest for men and women in the most resilient occupations. In contrast, when we study parental responses to anticipated school closures due to school vacations, we find that fathers decreased hours worked much more than mothers.

ID251 - The Effect of Interracial Peers on Political Preferences: Evidence from Longitudinal Data from Schools in the United States

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Abstract

This study explores the enduring influence of Black peers in school on their classmates' future political preferences. Using comprehensive panel data from a representative sample of US school students followed over time, I leverage quasi-random variation in the share of Black peers across cohorts within a school. The results suggest that a higher proportion of same-gender Black peers is associated with a lower likelihood of holding conservative political preferences in the future. I provide suggestive evidence for the argument that the re-categorization of different racial groups into a shared school-belonging identity may be one of the forces behind these results.

ID252 - Residual Mortgage Debt, NHG Insurance, and Defaults in the Netherlands

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Abstract

Mortgage defaults are commonly linked to affordability and borrowers' income; less often, to a decrease in home value. Some studies talk about "strategic defaults", a form of moral hazard whereby people who can afford their underwater mortgage choose not to pay. In this way, they clear their excess debt, as single recourse systems act as insurance. Our focus is on a type of mortgage insurance, available for houses with values below a certain threshold, that varies over time. We examine how this mortgage insurance affects decisions to default. We combine a quasi-natural experiment with the estimation of a structural model, more precisely an optimal stopping model. Our findings reveal that the (utility from) the future value of home equity influences negatively the likelihood of default. We show that the discontinuity around the qualification threshold is linked to borrowers' income, due to loan-to-income caps. The model indicates that while the insurance does not cause defaults in general, it does lead to more defaults for borrowers who separate from their partners, possibly indicating moral hazard.

ID253 - Parental Leave from the Firm's Perspective

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¹Ozyegin University, Istanbul, Turkey. ²University of Essex, Colchester, United Kingdom. ³Norwegian School of Economics, Bergen, Norway

Abstract

In this study, we investigate firm side responses to generous parental leave mandates. Our primary focus is on firms' adjustments in the gender and age composition of their workforce. To identify these effects, we use employer-employee matched data from Norway,

and deploy a Bartik-type instrument exploiting variation in exposure and shifts across firms due to a series of expansionary reforms of the duration of paid parental leave. We find that in response to longer parental leave related absence, firms increase demand for young female employees but at lower wages. Heterogeneity analyses reveal that this is particularly the case in the private sector. We also document some positive effects on firm performance measured by investment and productivity. Increased part-time work by young women, and overtime hours by older workers emerge as important mechanisms explaining our results. Our findings suggest that both small and large firms have successfully adapted to young women's work interruptions linked to longer parental leave, an issue that has so far been overlooked in labor markets.

ID256 - Who Benefits from University Openings?

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Abstract

Research shows that university openings have positive effects on the education outcomes of youth in close proximity. However, the specific age cohorts that benefit from this remains still unclear. In this paper, we identify the age cohorts that experiences positive effects from university openings. Using a two-way fixed effects strategy, we compare the education outcomes of youth in districts with newly established universities to those in districts without universities. To identify the relevant age cohort, we vary the definition of the treatment group and assess the effects separately for each age cohort. We set the lower age threshold of the treatment group at 0 and vary the upper age threshold from 0 to 21. The results indicate that university openings increase the probability of obtaining a higher education degree primarily for individuals aged 0 to 14 and aged 0 to 21 in the opening year. We suggest using 14 or 21 years as the upper threshold if analysing university openings effects in a two-way fixed effects strategy.

ID258 - Household Decisions and the Gender Gap in Job Satisfaction

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Abstract

This paper offers a novel theoretical explanation for the gender gap in job satisfaction, where women typically report higher job satisfaction than men. We argue that rational family decisions can result in divergent job choices for women and men, leading to increased job satisfaction but lower earnings for women, even when their preferences and expectations align with those of men. We develop this explanation within a theoretical model of collective household decision-making that considers relative earnings disparities within households. We provide empirical evidence supporting our model's predictions utilizing survey and administrative data from Canada.

ID259 - The Effect on Employment of a Diabetes Screening: the Dutch Case of Lifelines

Claudio Annibali, Annette Bergemann, Rob Alessie

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Abstract

As diabetes brings sizeable economic costs, screenings are being implemented to promote early detection of such disease. The literature has studied the effects of diabetes screenings on health outcomes, but little is known about their effects on labour market outcomes. We investigate the employment effects of a diabetes risk warning received after a blood sample test performed by Lifelines, a Dutch cohort study which collected biomarkers from more than 160.000 people. We find that, among men, those who receive a warning but do not get an official diagnosis experience the steepest decline in employment levels. Women, on the other hand, leave the labour force as soon as they receive a warning about their current diabetes state. Furthermore, women with low levels of personality traits related to good diabetes management (i.e. self-discipline) drive our results, while for men results are mixed.

ID263 - Innocuous Exam Features? The Impact of Answer Placement on High-Stakes Test Performance and College Admissions

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Abstract

We provide evidence of negative effects on exam performance and college admissions driven by a seemingly innocuous exam feature: the placement of correct answer options (A, B, C or D) in multiple choice tests. Using question-by-question data from nearly 100,000 applicants to Colombia's top public university, we leverage randomness in the allocation of entrance exam booklets which contain different distributions of correct answer options. On average, at the question level, students are 5% less likely to answer a question correctly when the correct answer is in D relative to when it is in A, B or C. Moreover, having a share D that is one SD (6.7 pp) higher than the mean in math decreases overall performance by 0.01 SD and the likelihood of admission to applicants' first-choice major by 3%. The results have consequences for overall admissions to higher education institutions since men who face a higher share D in math in our exam are less likely to enroll in college at all. We provide descriptive evidence that applicants taking our exam and students taking other standardized tests worldwide are less likely to choose the last option in the choice set. "Satisficing", the tendency to stop perusing options down the list once a candidate solution appears, and "skimming" under tight time constraints appear to be the main drivers of this behavior.

ID265 - Understanding the Impact of Covid-19 Short-Time Work Schemes in a Segmented Labor Market

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Abstract

We examine the impact of COVID-19 short-time work (STW) schemes on Spain's segmented labor market, where around 25% of employees were under temporary employment contracts. We particularly focus on the inclusion of temporary employees under STW schemes, an innovative policy response introduced during the COVID-19 pandemic. Historically, Spain's labor force adjustments to shocks were mainly through external flexibility, mostly through temporary employment, while permanent workers enjoyed strict employment protection. Our analysis, based on employment transition equations, underscores the effectiveness of STWs in safeguarding employment during crises. Permanent workers exposed to STWs had a 26.9 percentage point higher likelihood of remaining employed compared to those transitioning to unemployment. Remarkably, this positive effect extends to temporary workers, who had a 15.7 percentage point higher likelihood of maintaining employment compared to those entering unemployment rather than participating in STW programs. These results point to the role of STW at reducing segmentation. Effects of STW is also observed in wages temporary workers covered by a STW program in April 2020 experience an 18.4% wage increase between February and December 2020, compared to their continuously employed counterparts. In contrast, permanent workers had observed a substantially lower increase of 3%. This positive wage effect is linked to employment changes, particularly prominent for workers transitioning to a different firm.

ID266 - Skills trainings and Bayesian learning: A multisite randomized controlled trial in Ghana

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Abstract

This study evaluates the Professionalization of Artisans (ProfArts) program in Ghana, designed to improve employment quality through skilled trades training, with a focus on understanding the effectiveness of such training interventions in sub-Saharan Africa. Despite substantial investment in skills training worldwide, evidence of their efficacy is mixed and, particularly in this region, still sparse. The ProfArts program, implemented by the German Development Corporation GIZ with six training institutes and a number of private sector partners, targeted artisans in four major Ghanaian cities. The program's outcomes, assessed through a randomized controlled trial (RCT), revealed limited overall impacts, with variations across regions, including notable employment and income effects in Tamale in the less developed north and some benefits in job quality in the more developed central city of Kumasi. Additionally, the study innovatively explores the expectations of implementers regarding the program's effectiveness, both before and after the presentation of RCT results. It finds that while stakeholders' beliefs about the program's impact adjust somewhat in response to empirical findings, preconceptions and optimism persist more than ideal in the context of evidence-based policy-making. This highlights the need for ongoing research in LMICs, especially in sub-Saharan Africa, and a deeper understanding of how implementers' expectations and learning processes influence the design and adaptation of training programs in varying labor market contexts.

ID268 - Education, gender, and family formation

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Abstract

We study the effect of educational attainment on family formation using regression discontinuity designs generated by centralized admissions processes to both secondary and tertiary education in Finland. At both margins, admission to further education increases the probability that women form families -- i.e. have children or cohabit. For men, our point estimates are near zero, and sometimes negative. These results come from a context with strong family policies and relatively weak gender norms, and are consistent with the idea that education may make career and family more compatible for women. Additionally, as higher-order skills are increasingly important in the labor market, and parental inputs are important in shaping these skills, these results fit with the idea that education may make women more attractive as potential spouses.

ID269 - The impact of parents' health shocks on children's health behaviors

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Abstract

In this paper we assess how two smoking-related parental health shocks, the diagnosis of lung cancer and the diagnosis of another smoking-related cancer, affect offspring smoking behavior depending on the timing of the health shock. We use two strategies to isolate the informational shock effect from the transmission effect associated with parental smoking. We first focus on individuals whose parents were diagnosed with smoking-related cancer and exploit heterogeneity in the individual's age at diagnosis. We then build a retrospective panel and use individual fixed effects to absorb the transmission effect. We find that receiving a parental diagnosis at the age when the decision to smoke is about to be made reduces the long-term probability of being a smoker and the duration of smoking.

ID275 - The effects of school accountability measures for low performing schools: Evidence from a regression discontinuity design

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Abstract

This paper applies a regression discontinuity framework to investigate the impact of school accountability measures for low performing schools by the Dutch Inspectorate of Education. The measures are designed as a ladder of escalating interventions which are triggered when schools fail to meet test score performance thresholds. We investigate outcomes until three years after the interventions using administrative data over 2010-2019. Our main finding is that the increased scrutiny by the Inspectorate of education lifts the performance of failing schools above the minimum acceptable threshold but, on average, does not yield longer-term gains. We find no evidence for strategic behavior of schools.

ID277 - The Long-Term Effects of a Targeted Early-Childhood Intervention on Family Outcomes: A 20-Year Follow-Up of a Randomised Controlled Trial

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Abstract

We evaluate a randomised controlled trial of a targeted early-childhood intervention by linking RCT participants to administrative data. The intervention, Supportive Parenting, consists of six home visits by trained nurses and aims to prevent parenting problems. Contrary to most targeted programmes, families are screened on risk factors unrelated to socio-economic status. We show that eligible families have above average levels of education, making them ineligible for alternative home visitation programmes. We find that Supportive Parenting affects the entire household. When children are 12 and 24 months old, we find that the intervention improves parenting attitudes. Supportive Parenting also affects fertility and labour market decisions. We find an increase in birth spacing and a reduction in hours worked for both parents. For children, we find an improvement in socio-emotional development at 12 and 24 months. We do not find evidence of effects on their educational outcomes at age 11 and 16.

ID280 - Changing the Marriage Contract along the Way: Anticipatory effects of Survivor Insurance on Divorce & Labour Supply

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Abstract

This paper investigates the anticipatory effects of reforming public survivor insurance on divorce behavior and on labour supply of married women and their husband. We use rich administrative data on the Dutch population and the cohort-based implementation of a reform that considerably restricted survivor benefits (SB) eligibility to identify the causal effects of SB, thanks to a regression discontinuity design analysis. We show that married women do not divorce more nor anticipate their divorce but increase their labour force participation by 7%. We do not find any reaction for their husbands. Our findings document a long-term and strong anticipatory reaction to the reform, suggesting that public SB schemes disincentivize female working.

ID284 - Feedback, Overconfidence and Job Search Behavior

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Abstract

Job seekers face uncertainty about their abilities, and whether these match with job requirements. Such uncertainty may result in sub-optimal job search outcomes and job matches. We conduct a field experiment among job seekers in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Participants underwent a skill assessment and were asked about their willingness to pay (WTP) for information about their relative performance on a test of general intelligence. WTP is positive for about 80 percent of the population, and is associated with gender and personality. Feedback provision leads individuals to update their beliefs which only persists for individuals with low WTP. We provide evidence that suggests imperfect recall as potential mechanism for the lack of persistence. Feedback increases job search intensity but relatively less for initially overconfident individuals and those with negative or zero WTP. This results in lower realized wages for these groups. The heterogeneity in belief updating, recall and job search behavior is consistent with some overconfident job seekers being unable to forget information and, thus, to maintain motivated beliefs, but being sophisticated about this inability to forget.

ID286 - Impacts of paternity leave reform: exploring seasonality and heterogeneity in fathers' uptake of parental leave

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Abstract

Why don't family policies appear to result in greater gender equality in the labor market? We consider a Finnish paternity leave reform that aimed to encourage fathers to take more parental leave and reduce gender disparities in labor markets. Using this reform as a natural experiment, we explore its effects on fathers' uptake and labor market outcomes for parents. We also study couples' heterogeneity and whether certain types of couples are more responsive to the reform. We find that fathers whose children were born just after the reform are more likely to take longer paternity leave compared to fathers whose children were born just before the reform. However, no effect is observed in the outcomes measuring gender inequality in the labor market. We show that fathers prefer to utilize their parental leaves during holiday periods, such as the summer months and at the end of the year.

ID288 - Air Pollution and the Housing Market: Evidence from Germany's Low Emission Zones

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Abstract

This paper studies whether improvements in local air quality are reflected in the housing market based on comprehensive data on real estate prices in Germany. Using a quasi-experimental research design, we exploit the staggered introduction of Low Emission Zones (LEZs) across German cities, restricting access for high-emitting vehicles. We find that traffic-related air pollutants decreased on average by about 5 to 10%. We further find that residents value the presence of LEZs, reflected by roughly 2% higher apartment rents. The results are driven by earlier LEZ implementations and LEZs in areas with relatively higher pre-intervention pollution levels. Back-of-the-envelope calculations suggest that living within LEZs is valued by the German population at a lower bound of 630 million euros annually. Our results imply a significant value in further improving urban air quality.

ID289 - Gender gaps in high-stakes teacher assessments

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Abstract

Numerous studies have explored the various factors contributing to the gender gap in STEM, including personal attributes such as self-confidence, competitiveness, and preferences, alongside external influences from peers and role models. An emerging body of evidence underscores the profound impact of teacher assessments on students' beliefs regarding their abilities. This paper contributes empirical evidence on gender differences in teacher-assessed grades within a high-stakes context, particularly in a situation where these take the form of predicted grades for university applications. To address our research questions, we utilise a newly linked administrative dataset from England which encompasses the universe of university applicants from 2017 to 2019. The dataset includes two key measures of a student's ability relevant for university applications: a teacher-predicted grade and a standardised exam grade. These two measures are designed to capture the exact same underlying skill set and, therefore, the correlation between the two facilitates the identification of teacher bias. We use the awarded grade as a benchmark for assessing whether teachers systematically over- or under-predict girls relative to boys. We demonstrate that teachers predict girls more favourably compared to equally achieving and observably similar boys within the same class. However, these gaps can be predominantly attributed to significant gender disparities in lagged skills. Specifically, we show that for a given level of contemporaneous skills, boys' lagged performance is much lower compared to girls, particularly in STEM subjects. When adjusting for these gaps, we discover biases in teacher predictions against girls in STEM and against boys in non-STEM.

ID294 - Measuring Present Bias in Choices over Food and Money: Evidence from a Framed Field Experiment

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Abstract

We conduct a framed field experiment at a college canteen where participants repeatedly choose and consume lunch menus and allocate money over time. Uniquely, our experiment satisfies the consume-on-receipt assumption and focuses on a very natural consumption task. We find no correlation between dynamic inconsistency measures in food vs. money choices. We analyze food choice behavior at the aggregate level using 3,666 food choice observations and find that utility weight estimates reveal opposing patterns between different food categories (i.e., main, side or dessert dishes) that balance out at the overall meal level, hiding the inconsistency. We investigate the demand for a commitment device and find that committing individuals tend to enforce dynamically consistent behavior through internal self-control, while non-committers tend to be present-biased. Our results suggest that internal and external control strategies are substitutes, not complements.

ID297 - Why bother when no one is watching? Gender-specific responses to a supportive observer - evidence from a natural experiment

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Abstract

We study the effect of non-monetary rewards on relative effort in a competitive setting with a clear incentive structure. We use a Tullock competition framework to model possible positive or negative effects of supportive spectators on players. Spectators in tennis (as in other professional sports) reward players' performance by applauding. The unexpected absence of live attendance during the COVID-19 pandemic allows identifying the causal effect of spectator presence on players relative effort and performance. We use point-by-point data from Grand Slam tournaments between 2016 and 2021 to test the theoretical predictions of our model and estimate how male and female players differ in their effort provision when spectators are present or absent. The estimation results show that men exert less effort when no spectators are present than when they are present. This is due to players who are significantly behind in terms of the intermediate score and reduce their effort when winning an intermediate stage is unlikely. These patterns of effort provision by male players are consistent with rational agents who react to symbolic reward such as applause. In contrast, we find no effect for female players. We find no evidence of social facilitation as a potential explanation. Our estimates are robust to a range of sensitivity tests.

ID298 - Unpacking Self-Regulated Study Behaviour and Learning Outcomes for Learners in Kenya using Survey and EdTech Data

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Abstract

Empirical evidence on the self-regulated study behaviour of learners in diverse settings, particularly within the home environment is limited. Consequently, fundamental questions regarding the amount of time children spend studying at home, what subjects they choose to study, and the rationale behind these choices remain largely unexplored. This paper addresses these questions, drawing on data obtained from longitudinal surveys conducted with learners in a low-income setting in Kenya, together with their study data from a self-study EdTech app. The utilized technological device is a low-cost tablet with offline functionality, allowing us to observe learner study behaviour at home. Nearly all participants offered the device take it up (98\% take-up rate) and we find large heterogeneity in the usage of the tablets, ranging from minimal to intense usage. We do not find a significant gender difference in the average time taken to study on the app per active day, nor in the number of days the app is used. However, we find some heterogeneity in the time spent studying Math (girls spend significantly more time studying Math than boys) but not on time studying English or playing a game. Our findings also reveal a pattern of children predominantly interacting with content below their current school grade, highlighting both a gap in learning levels and the demand to bridge this gap.

ID299 - Women in Political Power and School Closure During Covid Times

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Abstract

This study explores the relationship between women's representation in political power and school closures during the COVID-19 pandemic. Using a cross-country dataset in Europe, we document a striking negative relationship between the share of female members in national governments and school closures. We show that a one standard deviation increase in female members of national governments is associated with a reduction in the likelihood of school lockdowns by 24% relative to the average share of school closures. This result is robust to an extensive set of sensitivity checks. We attribute this pattern to a higher awareness of female politicians about the potential costs that school closures imply for families.

ID300 - Work from Home, Eat near Home?: The Reshaping Geography of Local Service Firms

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Abstract

The increase in the number of people working from home (WFH) not only has a direct effect on high WFH-potential industries, but also has more widespread impacts on the structure of cities and non-remote industries. In this paper, we investigate the effect of WFH on local service industries using Swedish administrative data and a difference-in-differences approach. We find evidence that restaurant production shifted towards more residential areas due to the increase in WFH and that this shift has persisted into the post-pandemic period, suggesting that there may be some longer-term spatial reorganization of cities. Restaurant workers are also impacted by these changes with workers employed at restaurants in more residential areas having increased earnings, likely driven by increased hours worked. We find no effects on employment or commuting distance suggesting no residential sorting by restaurant workers.

ID302 - Building Health across Generations: Unraveling the Impact of Early Childcare on Maternal Health

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Abstract

In contemporary households, women often shoulder most organisation and caregiving responsibilities leading them to play a crucial role in family dynamics. While previous research has established that public early childcare affects child outcomes and maternal employment, less attention has been given to its effects on maternal health despite its relevance within the household. This study investigates the impact of public early childcare on maternal short- and long-term health and the child penalty in health. Based on administrative health records covering 90% of the German population over a decade, we leverage the exogenous variation in childcare coverage rates across counties and time induced by a major German early childcare expansion. Our results reveal an intra-household transmission of communicable diseases: mothers experience 4--8% more infections and 2--4% more respiratory diseases for a 10 percentage point rise in childcare coverage rates when their children are 1--2 years old. In contrast, mothers benefit from reductions in obesity and anaemia, and heterogeneity analyses show a lower prevalence of mood- and stress-related disorders for multiparous and older mothers. Early childcare widens the child penalty for most conditions in the short run, but shrinks it for non-communicable diseases and mental health disorders at later ages. The policy implications of our findings extend beyond the health impacts of early childcare on mothers and shed light on the broader dynamics within families.

ID303 - Advising Job Seekers in Occupations with Poor Prospects: A Field Experiment

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Abstract

We study the impact of online information provision to job seekers who are looking for work in occupations with relatively poor labor market prospects. The information is provided through a personalized email containing suggestions about suitable alternative occupations and how the prospects of these alternatives compare to the job seekers' current occupation of interest. We additionally include a link to a motivational video for parts of the treatment group. We evaluate the interventions using a randomized field experiment covering all registered job seekers in the target occupations, where two thirds are treated. Our email is opened by the vast majority of job seekers, revealing the alternative suggestions. The motivational video link is rarely used. Effects on unemployed job seekers in structurally poor labor markets are large: their employment, hours of work and labor income all improve by 4% to 5%, with persistent impact over 1.5 years. There is little impact on job seekers in "Covid" occupations which did well prior to and after the lockdowns.

ID306 - Migrant motherhood penalty in Germany

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Abstract

The Motherhood penalty has been an emerging research topic in recent decades. However, only a few studies deal with the heterogeneities in penalties for immigrant women based on the mothers' cultural origins and the underlying mechanisms. This deficit in the literature is even more so alarming with the gradually increasing number of female immigrant workforce and their relevance for industrialized countries' labor markets. In this paper, I employ a vast administrative dataset and examine the motherhood penalty (MHP) in labor market participation and wages among immigrants in Germany. I compare their labor market outcomes to those of native German mothers and conduct a case study to examine potential heterogeneity in reaction to childcare allowance policy. The main findings suggest that in the short run, the largest differences are found in the second and third years after childbirth. Foreigners return on average later than the natives in the short run. Also, in the long run, the natives have the smallest motherhood penalty. The comparison of relative penalties between mothers and their never-treated statistical twins suggests that a 24% points higher wage penalty for mothers from predominantly Muslim countries than that of native Germans. The results from the case study suggest that foreigners from pred. Muslim countries do react differently compared to the natives to childcare policies dependent on their pre-childbirth earnings.

ID307 - Sick of Robots - heterogeneous effects of industrial robots on sickness absence

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Abstract

This paper studies how the introduction of industrial robots affects sickness absence among workers in the manufacturing sector in Norway. We use data on the imports of industrial robots at the firm level, combined with employee-firm linked register data, to investigate the impact of robotisation on the duration of sick leave (SL). We find that robotisation leads to a statistically significant increase in SL duration of approximately 1.7 days. Workers in blue-collar occupations are especially negatively affected, and among this group those with routine tasks experience even higher levels of SL following robotisation, with an average increase of around five days. We conduct additional separate analyses looking at different categories of diagnoses across various occupation groups and find heterogeneous effects. Our results suggest that for blue-collar and routine workers robotisation leads to increased musculoskeletal SL, while we only observe an increase in injuries for STEM workers, with maintenance engineers especially negatively affected. Our findings suggest several mechanisms that differ by type of occupation, ranging from musculoskeletal diagnoses caused by repetitive strain to an increase in injuries resulting from working directly with the newly installed industrial robots.

ID311 - Starting School and ADHD: When Is It Time to Fly the Nest?

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Abstract

Does deferring school entry for children born just before the enrollment cutoff date improve their mental well-being? We address this question using administrative data on prescriptions for attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) in England. Higher ADHD rates among early school starters are often attributed to a peer-comparison bias caused by differences in relative age among classmates. However, previous studies do not consider other potential underlying mechanisms. Adopting a more comprehensive framework, we are able to confirm that relative age is the primary driver of the gap in ADHD rate in the long term. Furthermore, we find that such long-term gap is driven by first-time prescriptions between ages 5 and 8, which is a critical period when the accuracy of ADHD diagnosis is most important. Based on these findings, our policy recommendations include sorting children by age and refining diagnostic decision-making in early primary school.

ID313 - Child penalties and the gender gap in home production and the labor market

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Abstract

The consequence of the arrival of children for the gender wage gap - known as the child penalty - is substantial and has been documented for many countries. Little is still known about the impact of having children beyond paid work in the labor market, such as home production. In this paper we estimate - deploying an event study with Dutch survey data - the child penalty in both home production and the labor market. In line with the literature we find no labor market effects for men. For women we find a strong reduction in work hours and wages. However, we find an increase in home production for women roughly similar to the decline in paid work. Consequently, time allocated to the labor market plus home production is roughly equal across gender before and after the arrival of children. This result rejects the hypothesis that women substitute paid work for leisure after the arrival of children.

ID314 - The Effect of Transitory Health Shocks on Schooling Outcomes: The case of dengue fever in Brazil

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Abstract

In this paper, we estimate the causal effect of transitory individual-level health shocks on schooling outcomes in Brazil. We focus on dengue fever, which, despite putting half of the world's population at risk, has received relatively little attention, possibly due to its low mortality. We link individual register data on dengue infections with detailed individual records from the Brazilian school census and use a fixed effects estimation strategy to estimate the effect of dengue infections on grade retention and dropout. We find that dengue infections during the school year have a substantial negative effect on measures of student success, with an increase in grade retention of 3.5 percent and an increase in dropout of 4.6 percent. The results are important for vector control programs and for the adoption and targeting of novel dengue vaccines.

ID317 - Child Penalties in Labour Market Skills

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Abstract

Large child penalties in labour market outcomes are widely documented: after childbirth, employment and earnings of mothers and fathers diverge persistently. In this paper, we estimate child penalties in cognitive skills of adults using the PIAAC dataset. For identification, we adapt the pseudo-panel approach by Kleven (2023) to a single cross-section covering 26 countries. We show that labour market skills drop in early parenthood for both parents and more so for mothers. The long-run child penalty in numeracy skills is 0.15 standard deviations. Using estimates for the returns to skills on the labour market, these lower numeracy skills translate into 3% lower wages for mothers. Differences in numeracy use at work are relatively pronounced, suggesting an important labour force participation channel.

ID319 - Paternity Leave and Child Outcomes

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Abstract

We study how fathers' time impacts children's human capital using the introduction of earmarked paternity leave in Sweden. We use administrative data on parents' leave uptake and children's educational outcomes in a difference-in-discontinuities design, exploiting the plausibly random timing of childbirth. We show that the reform decreased average school-leaving grade point averages of sons of non-college fathers by 0.07 standard deviations and increased intergenerational persistence of human capital by 30 percent. We give suggestive evidence that these findings are explained by asymmetric impacts on parents' time investments owing to family disruptions and (lack of) substitutability of parents' time inputs.

ID323 - The interactions of Local and Displaced Populations

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Abstract

Among the challenges faced by communities hosting internally displaced people (IDP) the most important one might be to build trust between IDPs and local population. We investigate how local individuals interact with IDPs, and how these interactions differ according to the cultural distance between local and IDPs, where cultural distance is measured in term of ethnicity, religion or language. To do so we conduct a field experiment in the Kurdistan region of Iraq. Participants are randomised between a control group, a group primed to increased empathy and a third one primed to view IDPs as contributors to their local communities, and play standard economic games with IDPs from different cultural origin.

ID324 - Education and Ethnic Intermarriage: Evidence from Higher Education Expansion in Indonesia

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Abstract

In this paper, we analyse the effect of education on interethnic marriages in Indonesia, a multi-ethnic emerging country. The empirical analysis is based on data from the Java Island from the 2014 wave of the Indonesian Family Life Survey, combined with administrative data about the location and year of establishment of Higher Education Institutions (HEI). To estimate causal effects, we exploit variation in exposure to HEI by birth year and district of residence in an IV/TSLS framework. Specifically, we employ as instrument for education the number of HEI located in a radius of 10 kilometres from the centroid of the district of residence at age 18. The analysis is carried out at the individual level, with separate estimations for males and females. The results indicate that years of schooling, college attendance and completion positively affect the likelihood of exogamy, i.e. having a partner from a different ethnicity. The estimated coefficients are somewhat larger for females than for males, and all the robustness checks provide stable results, supporting their causal interpretation. The effect of schooling is not heterogeneous depending on individual's ethnicity, parental education and mixed parental ethnicity. We also analyse potential mechanisms, highlighting that migration/residential location and changes in social norms could be significant channels underlying the causal chain between higher education expansion, educational attainments and interethnic marriages. Overall, the results reported in this paper point out that the increase in educational attainments induced by the expansion of higher education could contribute to the reduction of ethnic segregation.

ID325 - What Do Kids Learn from Exams?

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Abstract

Grades and exams are an important part of schooling systems that have marked effects on students. They ration scarce educational resources, provide a range of information to schools, and may promote learning. At the same time, they provide information to students about their academic progress and ability, and potentially, their suitability for future study. In practice, there is a large variety in how grades are assigned where a key variation is whether this is teacher assessment or exam-based. This paper uses a setting, Norway, where both are used, but exam grading is randomly assigned to students at the end of middle school. Using register data, we demonstrate systematic differences in grade assignment by teachers across different student groups. Most notably, teachers grade generously relative to exams, and we document large systematic across school variation. In some schools, assignment to a math exam results in an average one grade reduction (i.e. B to C). We then focus on how assignment to this exam influences later, consequential, student choices. Notably, we demonstrate that taking a math exam increases the likelihood of staying in the academic track, and choosing higher level maths. Both have consequence for later university choices and access.

ID327 - Drivers of Past and Future Labor Supply Growth in The Netherlands

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Abstract

This paper uncovers the drivers of past Dutch labor supply growth and makes a projection for the future using age-period-cohort models for participation rates and hours worked. Results highlight birth cohort effects as primary contributors to increased participation in the past, especially for women and older age groups. Changes in demographics due to increased migration rates and shifting household compositions played did not significantly affect participation rates. Projection results indicate a strong slowdown in labor supply growth between 2025 and 2040 due to slower growth of the working age population and female participation rates.

ID328 - Time to grow up: the distributional effect of parental leave policies on fertility and child human capital

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Abstract

In this study, I investigate the role that parental leave policies play in shaping the trends of fertility and children's human capital formation observed in high-income countries. Recent research provides empirical evidence showing that the historical negative relationship between education and fertility within families has flattened or reversed (Doepke et al. (2022)). In this paper, I develop a life cycle model with heterogeneous agents, endogenous fertility, and parental investment and I structurally estimate the model's key parameters to match moments characterizing the US economy. By running a policy experiment introducing parental leave policies, I show that parental leave policies contribute to an increase in fertility, particularly at the top of the education distribution. The policy intervention flattens the negative relationship between education. The quantity-quality trade-off resulting from the increase in fertility offsets the benefits of this policy for children's human capital formation and narrows the gap between children of highly educated and low educated parents. Therefore, besides highlighting the importance of designing policies that carefully balance fertility incentives with long-term goals for child development, this study highlights the importance of incorporating fertility in models that evaluate the consequences of parental leave policies on children's human capital.

ID333 - Gender and Performance in White-Collar Teams: Evidence From Students

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Abstract

Most firms make use of teams, yet generalizable evidence on how the composition of work teams affects their performance remains scant. This paper examines how the performance of teams completing tasks found in many white-collar occupations is influenced by their gender composition. Leveraging on the structure in which first-year economics students are randomly paired together and perform tasks such as document preparation, data analysis, and presentations, we document large differences in performance grades by gender composition. All-male teams are significantly outperformed by both mixed and all-female research teams. These differences remain even when comprehensively controlling for the individual task aptitude of the group members, as well as other characteristics that may vary by gender. In contrast, subjective self-reported evidence reveals that mixed-gender groups report the worse outcomes along many subjective dimensions, including reported motivation, group atmosphere, and group unity. We speculate that this pattern may be due to higher level of group-work efforts by women, which boosts performance but leads to dissatisfaction due to effort mismatch in mixed-gender groups.

ID337 - Gender Gap in Reported Childcare Preferences among Parents

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Abstract

The child penalty explains the majority of gender employment and wage gaps; however, less is known about the factors driving the child penalty itself. In this paper, we study the gender gap in childcare preferences as a potential factor that contributes to the child penalty. We surveyed Czech parents and elicited the minimal compensation they would require to stay home to care for a child. Mothers require less compensation for childcare than fathers. The estimated gender gap in childcare preferences is CZK 2,500 monthly, 7.6% of the median female wage, and cannot be explained by differences in labor market opportunities or prosocial motives to care for a family member. We further document widespread misperception of fathers' preferences, as respondents incorrectly expect fathers to require less to care for a child than to care for an elderly parent.

ID339 - Racial Discrimination in the Labour Market of English Football Managers

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Abstract

We track the post-playing careers of all professional football players who were active in the English top 2 divisions between 1990 and 2010 and ended their playing career by 2013. Out of 3420 individual players, we identify 544 (16%) as Black (or of mixed black heritage). Around 4% of Black former players eventually obtain a role as first team manager, whereas 11% of the non-Black former players progress to this level. Black former players face three significant impediments in their career progress: lower recruitment rates in junior managerial roles, reduced progression from junior to senior management, and a higher dismissal rate when in senior management. We document the importance of each of these in our sample. We also find that on-field achievements as a player do not alleviate these impediments for Black former players.

ID343 - Gender Imbalance, Migration and Intra-Household Bargaining

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³Universitat Pompeu Fabra, Barcelona, Spain. ⁴Southern Methodist University, Dallas, USA. ⁵CESifo, Munich, Germany

Abstract

Key economic decisions that economists study, such as joining or leaving the labor force or fertility planning, are often made at the household level, which involves multiple individuals. In this paper we use a quasi-experimental setting to study how intra-household bargaining evolves in response to the changes in social norms. In the setting of South Korea, we use a change in immigration law which facilitated the arrival of Ethnic Korean Chinese (EKC) migrants for labor purpose: the Working Visit System. With a panel of individual-level data, the “Women and Family Survey” (WFS), we directly measure intra-household bargaining, by quantifying to which extent women rely on men’s opinion to take labor market decisions. Our preliminary results show that after the change in the migration law, household members spend substantially less time on housework chores and women increase their bargaining power when facing labor market decisions, only in districts more exposed to the arrival of EKC migrants.

ID344 - Gender-role identity in adolescence and women fertility in adulthood.

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Abstract

This paper examines the influence of exposure during adolescence to peers with different familial fertility patterns on women's fertility in adulthood. Our analysis distinguishes between the extensive (i.e., whether one becomes a mother or not) and the intensive (i.e., the total number of children) margins of fertility. We use idiosyncratic within-school/cohort variations in the number of siblings as an identification strategy. Our results reveal a positive impact of an individual's own number of siblings on the intensive margin of fertility (the number of children mothers have), but a negligible effect on the extensive margin (the decision to become a mother or not). Furthermore, we find a positive impact of the number of peers' siblings on the intensive margin, while conversely, we observe a negative impact on the extensive margin. Investigating the underlying mechanisms behind these peer effects, we find that the negative peer effect in the extensive margin is associated with women who, during adolescence, report stronger relationships with their mothers, a greater sense of belonging in school, and parents who engage less with their friends' parents. On the other hand, in the intensive margin, we note that the positive peer effect is more pronounced for women who have a bad relationship with their mothers and it only holds for women with a low sense of belonging to school and whose parents have limited social interactions with their friends' parents.

ID345 - Venezuelan immigration in Colombia: labor market dynamics

Alexander Sarango-Iturralde^{1,2}, Andres García-Suaza¹, Juan Miguel Gallego¹, Carlos Sepúlveda¹, Juan Mayorga¹, Angie Mondragon-Mayo¹

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Abstract

The increase in global immigration phenomena has impacted host labor markets and also the migrants who are already settled. This article analyzes the impacts of Venezuelan immigration on the Colombian natives and earlier-term migrants' labor market between 2016 and 2021. We find that immigration increases informality and decreases labor participation and hourly wages for both natives and earlier migrants, but furthermore decreases employment and hourly wages for natives. Likewise, we show that effects on employment, labor participation, and informality are higher in natives and mostly concentrated on women, youth, less educated, and informal workers.

ID346 - The adverse effects of weight reports in schools

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Abstract

This paper investigates whether providing parents with information about the weight status of their children can contribute to reducing childhood obesity, whether it changes children's health behaviours and cognitive test performance, and whether it has any adverse effects. Based on rich English survey data we exploit the timing of the survey interview compared to the timing of sending out weight reports to parents to identify a causal effect. Our findings do not reveal any of the intended effects of weight reports on body weight or health behaviours. Instead, we find adverse effects of the intervention which are concentrated in disadvantaged families.

ID353 - Effect of Initial Location Assignment on Health of Asylum Seekers

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Abstract

Asylum seekers face a unique situation where their initial location is assigned to them upon arrival in the host country. With location being a major determinant of health, understanding how this initial location assignment impacts the early health outcomes of asylum seekers is a critical question. Using administrative data for the Netherlands, I show that assigning an asylum seeker to a municipality with 1 percentage point higher share of hospital admissions among non-asylum seekers increase their chance of being hospitalized by 0.32 percentage points. The finding remains consistent for other health outcomes. The estimated coefficient varies across different sub-groups of asylum seekers. The results indicate the role of location assignment in shaping the health of asylum seekers, providing valuable insights for policymakers.

ID357 - Affirmative Action during Early Childhood: School Choice, Academic Performance and School Satisfaction*

Shushan Margaryan^{1,2,3}, Jose Montalban⁴, Alexandra de Gendre⁵

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Abstract

Many centralized school assignment mechanisms use priority points to assign children to schools. We use administrative data from Madrid to study the impact of low-income priority points under the Boston mechanism. We use two sharp discontinuities in household income which determine priorities for primary school. We first show that low-income priority points increase the likelihood that children are admitted to their preferred school, which tend to be more demanded and higher quality. We then show that the priority points change parents' ordered choice lists, making low-income parents apply to fewer closer schools with lower rates of absenteeism but neither closer nor better ranked schools, while making higher income parents apply to more demanded and higher quality schools in first choice. Parental strategic behavior translate into null effects on standardized test scores at the lower income threshold, and positive effects at the higher income threshold which fade out later on. Lastly, we use a matched survey of parents and children, and find no impact on parents' satisfaction with their child's school and teachers and no impact on children's satisfaction with their school, teachers or peers. Our findings suggest that low and higher-income parents are sophisticated in different ways, with little effects on test scores.

ID358 - Skilled Immigration and Technology Upgrades as Exports Boosters

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¹Cornell University, Ithaca, USA. ²CEDLAS, La Plata, Argentina

Abstract

We study the impact of a massive skilled labor supply shock, resulting from the Venezuelan exodus, on Colombian manufacturing firms' exports. Leveraging a unique dataset spanning 2013 to 2019 and employing a Bartik-type instrumental variables approach, our analysis reveals that Venezuelan migration had a positive impact on both the extensive and intensive margins of manufacturing firms' exports. Furthermore, it contributed to diversifying exports and facilitating entry into new and more sophisticated international markets, particularly high-income and upper-middle-income countries. The key driver behind these effects was an increase in exports of differentiated goods. Delving into the underlying mechanisms, our study uncovers that the increased supply of skilled workers led to an enhancement in the skills of the labor force hired by manufacturing firms. This, in turn, prompted increased investments in technology development, improvements in production processes, and elevated product quality, fostering competitiveness in the international market.

ID361 - The (Pandemic) Effects of Short-Time Work: Evidence from Germany

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Institute for Employment Research (IAB), Nürnberg, Germany

Abstract

I study the German short-time work (STW) scheme and its ramifications, using novel administrative data on STW and drawing on evidence from establishment surveys that are linked to the administrative data. I show that, next to financial reasons, firms value and use STW because it allows them to hoard labor in a tight labor market. Still, during the pandemic, I document a strong negative selection into STW based on measures of firm quality and productivity, a selection dynamic not observed in the financial crisis. Adjusting for selection, I then investigate the employment effects of STW in the pandemic and find 3-4% higher employment levels for firms utilizing STW. This relationship, however, vanishes quickly after firms exit STW, a result driven by outflows among STW firms being initially lower, but being higher after the end of STW. Partly facilitated by eased access rules, I additionally find that the policy's windfall effects are large: While back-of-the-envelope calculations suggest that up to half a million jobs were saved by STW in 2020, millions of jobs were supported in total, indicating an insufficient degree of targeting.

ID365 – Motherhood and Domestic Violence: Longitudinal Study Using Population-Wide Administrative Data

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¹Universitat de Barcelona, Barcelona, Spain. ²Queens College, CUNY, New York, USA. ³Göteborg University, Göteborg, Sweden

Abstract

Using population-wide longitudinal administrative data on hospital visits for assault for Swedish women, we document a large and persistent motherhood gap in gender victimization where mothers are considerably less likely to visit a hospital for injuries caused by assault relative to childless women. To address concerns that mothers and childless women may differ in preferences, risk taking and lifestyles, we estimate an individual fixed effects model to control for time-invariant individual unobserved heterogeneity. With this specification, we find that becoming a mother decreases the risk of assault by 53% (compared to mothers' pre-birth mean). Furthermore, we present two competing methods to study dynamics around the birth of the first child: event study analysis with individual FE and stacked Difference-in-Differences, both with individual and year FE. Both methods deliver similar results. After the birth of their first child, the risk of hospitalization due to assault falls and the drop persists for at least 6 years. We identify the mechanisms driving these results; show that this results are robust to a battery of sensitivity analysis; and reconcile our findings with those of the literature using different type of data and ana

ID367 - Dynastic human capital, ethnic capital, and intergenerational mobility

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¹IFAU, Uppsala, Sweden. ²University of Gothenburg, Gothenburg, Sweden. ³Stockholm University, Stockholm, Sweden. ⁴IIES, Stockholm, Sweden

Abstract

What determines the slow long-term convergence in educational and labor market outcomes between immigrant groups and between immigrants and natives? One argument put forward is that “ethnic capital”, or factors associated with ethnic or cultural background, lead to persistent gaps across generations (Borjas, 1992). The main innovation of this paper is that we merge the Borjas-framework with the framework laid out in Adermon et al. (2021), thereby incorporating the role of the extended family (dynastic capital), in addition to the nuclear family and the ethnic capital, in explaining intergenerational group convergence. We investigate these issues using administrative data on education and income for two and three generations of immigrants and natives, and their relatives, and detailed data on source country for immigrant ancestors. We find that the role of ethnic capital in explaining group convergence, relative to natives, decreases or is eliminated when we allow for a role for dynastic capital.

ID368 - The Impact of Firms on the Relative Pay of Women Across Countries

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Abstract

We document the contribution of firm-specific pay premiums on the gender wage gap using matched employer-employee datasets from the US and Europe. We exploit longitudinal data on the hourly wages of workers linked with income statement information for firms. We find that the impact of firms on the relative pay of women greatly differs across countries. It corresponds to two-thirds of the hourly gender wage gap in Hungary and the US, but less than one-third in France and Sweden. The contribution of firm-specific wage premiums in Denmark and Portugal are in between. Card, Cardoso, and Kline (2016) show that pay premiums contribute to the gender wage gap if women are less likely to work at high-paying firms (sorting) or if women are less likely to receive the same wage than men in the same firm (bargaining). We find that the role of both components varies greatly across countries. In Hungary and Denmark, the bargaining component dominates, while in Portugal, the sorting component dominates. In France, the US, and Sweden, the bargaining and sorting components matter equally.

ID371 - University fees, subsidies and field of study

Maxwell Yong, Michael Coelli, [Jan Kabatek](#)

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Abstract

We estimate the effects of discrete changes in student fees and government subsidies on student field of study preferences and enrolments at university. These estimates are constructed using both standard two-way fixed effects models and Conditional Multinomial Logit models using individual unit-record applications and enrolments data from the largest Australian state of New South Wales. Student preferences are negatively related to student fees but the elasticity estimates are not large. This is likely due to generous income-contingent loans with a zero real interest rate that cover all tuition fees. University enrolments by field of study respond to changes in fees and subsidies in a manner consistent with student preference responses rather than teaching revenue maximisation. This may be due to supply constraints, reputation concerns and other organisational priorities.

ID372 - The Anatomy of U.S. Sick Leave Schemes: Evidence from Public School Teachers

Nicolas Ziebarth^{1,2,3}, Matt Harris⁴, Chris Cronin⁵

¹ZEW, Mannheim, Germany. ²University of Mannheim, Mannheim, Germany. ³Cornell University, Ithaca, USA. ⁴University of Tennessee, Knoxville, USA. ⁵University of Notre Dame, Notre Dame, USA

Abstract

We study how public school teachers use paid leave. Most U.S. sick leave schemes operate as individualized credit accounts—paid leave is earned and unused leave accumulates, producing an employee-specific leave balance. We construct an administrative data set containing the daily balances and leave behavior of 982 teachers from 2010-2018. We find that sick leave use increases during flu season. We do not find evidence that the average teacher uses sick leave for leisure; however, there is evidence of such behavior among certain subsets of teachers (e.g., young, inexperienced teachers). Usage increases with leave balance; the elasticity is between 0.38-0.45. Further, higher balances reduce the likelihood that teachers work sick, particularly during flu season.

ID373- Evaluating the effect of a drastic cut in unemployment benefit duration on re-employment and wages of jobseekers

Marton Csillag, Agota Scharle, Balazs Munkacsy

Budapest Institute for Policy Analysis, Budapest, Hungary

Abstract

We evaluate the effect of a drastic cut in potential benefit duration, reducing the maximum length of UI benefits from 9 to 3 months in Hungary at the end of 2011. We rely on rich longitudinal matched administrative data, which allows us to obtain information on a large sample of UI benefit claimants, and we use matching methods to evaluate the effect of the benefit cut. While UI claimants found jobs more rapidly as a result of the reform, we find only negligible negative effects of reemployment wages overall. The notion that changes are due to the reform is reinforced by the result that the effect on employment is largest for the group where the 'bite' of the reform was the largest. Our heterogeneity analysis reveals that the drastic cut seems to have reduced moral hazard for the most employable (those with tertiary education) and forced them to be 'less picky'. This means that they took up lower wage jobs, but this effect was only temporary. Overall, the reform led to significantly lower income for over 60 percent of jobseekers, while only benefiting less than 10 percent of jobseekers, over a two-year horizon.

ID375 - Discrimination in grading? Evidence on teachers' evaluation bias towards minority students

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Abstract

We analyze whether teachers discriminate against minority students in terms of grading. Using comprehensive data on students in German primary and secondary schools, we compare students' scores in standardized, anonymized achievement tests with non-anonymous teacher ratings within a difference-in-differences framework. We find that minority students receive lower grades than majority students in both German and Math. However, these differences are not due to discrimination in grading against minority students. Instead, we find that performance gaps between minority and majority students are significantly reduced when being graded by the teacher compared to being assessed through the anonymized test. This result holds for different groups of minority students, and is robust to various sensitivity checks. Our findings thus reveal that, if anything, teachers have a positive evaluation bias towards minority students.

ID376 - Crime and Punishment Order: Prosecutorial Discretion and Discrimination

Fatma Selcen Palut

Erasmus University Rotterdam, Rotterdam, Netherlands

Abstract

Increasing the discretion of judicial actors is often used as a solution for overburdened criminal justice systems. This paper investigates the effect of increased prosecutorial discretion on the differential treatment of people with migratory background. I evaluate the direct and indirect effects of the introduction of the 'punishment order' instrument in the Netherlands in 2008, which allows prosecutors to decide on the guilt and the punishment of the accused without the involvement of a judge. Using difference-in-differences estimations, I find that the reform leads to a 2 p.p. decrease in dismissals and 1 p.p. increase in court trials for those with a migration background, compared to those without. I also show that people without a migration background are 2 p.p. more likely to receive a punishment order for the same crime and similar criminal history. I do not find any increase in efficiency in the long run. The effects are widely heterogeneous and strongest for those with a Moroccan or Caribbean background. I investigate multiple channels such as type of crime, severity of crime, and stereotypes against certain groups.

ID377 - The Effects of Layoffs on Opioid Use and Abuse

Marius Opstrup Morthorst¹, David J. Price², Peter Rønø Thingholm¹

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Abstract

Use and abuse of opioids are major problems in many countries around the world, but there is limited evidence on how economic hardship affect opioid consumption. In this paper, we investigate the effect of involuntary job loss (via mass layoffs) and subsequent economic hardship on opioid use and abuse in Denmark; assuming that mass layoffs are generally unpredictable and (conditional on observables) unrelated to an individual's propensity to use opioids, this allows us to identify the causal effect. We use high-quality Danish administrative data which allows us to study both the direct effect of job loss on the displaced worker and family spillovers. This paper has three primary contributions to the literature. First, we find the clearest causal evidence that economic conditions can increase opioid use: layoffs cause individuals to consume about 64% more opioids than they previously consumed, with significant effects on various measures of opioid abuse. Second, we can disentangle direct from indirect effects: layoffs cause spouses to consume about 44% more opioids than they previously consumed. Third, we connect the literature on opioid demand (due to economic conditions, as we study) to the more prominent literature on opioid supply, finding suggestive evidence that effects of layoffs are stronger in areas that have a large underlying supply of opioids. Supply and demand for opioids must both be taken into account if we hope to understand the rise of opioids over the last few decades.

ID378 - A green wage premium?

Elisabeth Isaksen, [Anna Godøy](#)

Ragnar Frisch Centre for Economic Research, Oslo, Norway

Abstract

Many governments have set ambitious climate goals requiring a shift away from fossil fuel intensive industries toward climate neutral jobs. The consequences of this green transition for workers depends on the quality of these jobs, that is, whether green jobs are also good jobs. Identifying the green wage premium is difficult due to the lack of a consensus definition of green jobs and the nonrandom sorting of workers to firms. We build on the literature on firm wage premiums, defining the green wage premium as the employment-weighted average firm wage premium in “green” relative to a comparison group of non-green, non-dirty jobs. Our estimated green wage premium is small in magnitude and sensitive to the definition of green. With the widest definition of green jobs, we estimate a statistically insignificant wage premium of 0.9%. Our baseline estimate of the green wage premium is an order of magnitude smaller than the raw gap in wages (8.4%), indicating a sorting of high-wage workers to green jobs on both observable and unobservable characteristics. Estimated green wage premiums are larger and statistically significantly positive for women and non-college educated workers. For male and college-educated workers, the green wage premium is close to zero.

ID379 - To Veil or Not to Veil? Assessing the Removal of Headscarf Ban a Muslim Country

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Abstract

This paper investigates the effect of lifting headscarf ban in public institutions on labor market outcomes of women in Turkey. Exploiting a pre-policy information on the regional share of veiled women in a difference-in-differences setting, we find that veiled women increased their employment in the public sector following the policy change. We show that this increase in the public sector employment among veiled women mainly driven by the reduction in the private sector employment. Exploring the household dynamics, we also observe significant increases in the working hours of veiled women's partners. We interpret this finding as a suggestive evidence of empowerment effect within the family following the lifting of the headscarf ban, which is consistent with the theoretical predictions.

ID382 - Gender Diversity and Diversity of Ideas

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Abstract

Diversity in employee representation is often advocated for its potential to promote the diversity of ideas, and thereby innovation. In this study, we shed light on the phenomenon of 'idea homophily', which is a tendency to be more interested in ideas closer to one's own. We first document recent trends in the Economics Academic junior hiring showing that women specializing in traditionally male-dominated fields are faring significantly better than their counterparts in female-dominated fields and even outperform their male peers. We then examine the demand for ideas in a college educated population with an Online experiment involving 500 participants. We find substantial gender differences in which ideas people are choosing to engage with. Also, when decision-makers are predominantly male, incentives encouraging engagement with female ideas increase substantially their demand, but disproportionately in male-dominated fields. In contrast, incentives encouraging ideas in female-fields in general increase exposure to female ideas but do not lead to an over-representation of either gender conditional on field.

ID383 - Robots Replacing Trade Unions: NovelData and Evidence from Western Europe

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Abstract

Historically, labor unions have played a crucial role in liberal democracies by hindering the increasing wage inequality, by channeling political demands and discontent into an organized voice, and by linking blue-collar constituencies to mainstream left parties. However, the importance and effectiveness of unions in the democratic process have progressively diminished in the last decades, combined with an atomization of political demands. We suggest that technological change, and robotization in particular, have directly contributed to weakening the role of unions. We employ novel granular data, at the subnational and sector level, on union density in Western Europe over two decades, to estimate the impact of industrial robot adoption on unionization rates. We find that regions more exposed to automation experience a decrease in union density. This evidence contributes to explain why technologically-driven economic grievances tend to express a decidedly right-wing character and do not favor pro-redistribution left-wing parties.

ID384 - Causal Effect of Education on Women's Labor Supply and Wages: Evidence from Turkey's Recent Higher Education Policy

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Abstract

Higher education attainment and women's employment have seen concurrent increases in the latter half of the 20th century. Cross-sectional data analyses across numerous countries suggest a positive association between these variables. However, such analyses are prone to various biases due to non-random selection into education. Using a recent expansion of higher education in Turkey as an instrument for college attainment, we estimate the causal impact of college education on women's employment and wages. Turkey, with a female employment rate of 35 percent, the lowest among OECD countries, provides an intriguing setting for our research. Our study is the first, to our knowledge, to establish the causal effect of college education on female employment. Additionally, we examine the causal effects of university education on hours of employment, wages, characteristics of the employment contract, and tasks undertaken and explore possible channels through which college education affects women's labor supply.

ID386 - Employment protection, job insecurity, and job mobility

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Abstract

This study leverages the Italian Jobs Act reform as a natural experiment to examine the impact of reduced employment protection on job insecurity and job mobility. The reform significantly lowered protection for open-ended contract workers in large firms hired after March 7, 2015, and introduced a sharp discontinuity in severance pay at 2-year tenure. Treated employees exhibit increased fear of job loss and higher termination rates. The higher job insecurity prompts workers in low-pay sectors and in low-quality firms to actively pursue job mobility, transitioning towards higher-paying positions. Conversely, workers in high-paying sectors respond by intensifying their efforts to secure their existing jobs. Crucially, all effects disappear for workers above the 2-year tenure threshold, when they become entitled to a 50% higher severance pay. These findings emphasize a complex trade-off behind the design of employment protection systems, as addressing early-stage insecurity with tailored social insurance may counteract upward mobility effects.

ID392 - A Library in the Palm of your Hand? A Reading Intervention with Low-Income Children

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Abstract

Children from disadvantaged households read less than their non-disadvantaged peers. Reading skills play a vital role in academic success and future educational attainment. We evaluate the impact of a randomized reading intervention on children from disadvantaged backgrounds in grades five and six. The intervention involves distributing e-book readers with access to a large library of age-appropriate books. The results indicate that children who received e-book readers read more frequently, leading to improved academic achievement, particularly in reading comprehension and math. The study also explores the impact on non-cognitive skills and emotional well-being. Findings suggest that the intervention benefits children with comparatively fewer disadvantages.

ID394 - Daddy's Duties? Daycare Expansions, Paternity Leave and Fathers' Involvement in Childcare

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Abstract

Fathers' increased involvement in caregiving is seen as a way to reduce gender gaps that arise after childbirth. However, little is known about how family policies can enhance fathers' involvement in domestic work to narrow these gaps. This paper examines the impact of universal daycare availability on fathers' involvement during early childhood. We are interested in the impact of daycare for children below age three on fathers' uptake of parental leave after birth and their subsequent involvement in childcare, as well as the effects on maternal labour market outcomes after birth. We exploit quasi-experimental variation in the regional availability of daycare over time, caused by the introduction of a legal claim in Germany in 2013 for publicly funded childcare for children under the age of three, and estimate generalized difference-in-differences models. We use rich individual-level data on childcare arrangements, as well as administrative data on fathers' parental leave-taking and childcare rates. We find that children enter daycare at an earlier age when regional daycare supply increases. Despite the simultaneous increase in fathers' parental leave, we cannot find evidence that paternity leave or fathers' childcare involvement increased due to higher availability of daycare. Yet, we find that maternal labour supply increases, indicating that greater daycare availability primarily substitutes maternal care and does not encourage fathers to increase their involvement at home. Overall, our analysis provides new insights into the interaction between different family policies and demonstrates that significant family policy efforts cannot permanently alter fathers' caregiving responsibilities within the family.

ID398 - Violent hate crimes and immigrants' social identity: Evidence from the San Gennaro's massacre

Tiziana Venittelli¹, Maria Rosaria Carillo¹, Alberto Zazzaro²

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Abstract

In this paper we explore the impact of the « San Gennaro's massacre », the camorra attack against the African community residing in a small municipality in southern Italy, which took place on the evening of September 18th, 2008, on the social identity of Africans living in Italy. Using a difference-in-differences approach, we find that the sense of belonging to Italy increased after the massacre, while this had no significant influence on the Africans attachment to their country of origin. The analysis of the potential mechanisms highlights that the effect propagates in provinces with high level of organized crime and where civil society mobilized after the massacre to protest against racism and violence. Our findings show that localized hate events affecting living conditions of a specific immigrant group have effects on the sense of self-identification to the host country of large immigrant populations and also persists over time. Further, we find that both the dangerousness of the host local environment and the risk of being subjected to violent crimes, and the solidarity of the natives are incentives for immigrants to assimilate to the majority group.

ID400 - Rebalancing power asymmetries within firms: Evidence from illegal resignations

Caterina Pavese¹, Alessandra Casarico², Irene Ferrari³

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Abstract

This paper investigates the impact of power asymmetries within firms on outcomes at a firm level in Italy, taking advantage of a 2007 change in regulation designed to address it. The reform mostly affected firms with more than 15 employees, allowing for a difference-in-difference estimation to uncover the causal effect of the policy. Our findings document that the reform was successful at rebalancing power within firms, leading to positive effects on workers' outcomes.

ID401 – Mass shootings and violent crime: The effect of subjective safety beliefs on health behavior

Sabrina Lenzen, Christiern Rose, Brenda Gannon

The University of Queensland, Brisbane, Australia

Abstract

This paper explores the externalities of mass shootings, crime, and perceived neighborhood safety on health behavior, namely physical activity, in the older adult population of the United States. We use data from a large nationally representative survey of older adults, combined with county-level crime rates and mass shootings between 2004 and 2020, and apply two complementary identification strategies: (1) First, we exploit the variation in timing and location of mass shootings and employ a staggered difference-in-differences method, showing that physical activity of respondents in the impacted counties drops in the survey waves following the incident, relative to other counties. (2) Second, we propose an instrumental variable correlated random-coefficient estimator (IV-CRC), allowing for multi-valued treatment effects, and study the effect of perceived neighborhood safety on physical activity, using violent crime rates as instrumental variable. We document a robust negative relationship between worse perceived neighborhood safety and physical activity, which is confirmed by our reduced form results of crime on physical activity.

ID402 - Too Hot to Handle: Effects of 35 °C Work Stoppage on Construction Workers' Health

Andrew Ireland

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Abstract

Heat poses a significant and increasing risk to workers, particularly in outdoor-based and physically demanding jobs. Many jurisdictions require employers to maintain a safe working environment, but few mandate specific heat thresholds for work cessation. Policies introduced in the construction industry in Australia's two largest states mandate work cessation when outside temperatures reach 35 °C (95 °F). By leveraging variation in the timing of adoption of this threshold between the states, I estimate of the causal effect of the policy on workplace accidents in difference-in-differences framework. The policies result in a one-third reduction in accidents on days above the threshold, eliminating the heat-related premium on accidents. This study highlights the effectiveness of such a policy for climate adaptation, with important implications for other jurisdictions and industries.

ID404 - College Students' Coworker Networks and Labor Market Entry

Gökay Demir¹, Friederike Hertweck², Malte Sandner^{3,4}, Ipek Yükselen³

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Abstract

This paper analyzes whether and to what extent college students' coworker networks from student jobs affect their labor market transition after graduation. The empirical analysis is based on administrative data, which includes all pre- and post-graduation job-related networks of college students who graduated from a large German university between 1995 and 2016. Our identification strategy overcomes potential bias due to non-random selection into networks by controlling for coherent sets of individual, network, and establishment characteristics, as well as establishment fixed effects, and by distinguishing between close and less close colleagues in the same establishment. Our results suggest that college graduates benefit from the quality of their coworkers in student jobs by speeding up their transition to the labor market and earning higher wages in their first job after graduation. These findings can contribute to understand which factors are important for a successful transition from higher education to the labor market.

ID407 - Evolution and Welfare Implications of Racial Sorting in the US Marriage Market

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Abstract

Interracial marriage has steadily increased in the US, indicating positive progress toward social integration. Nevertheless, this progress has been uneven across different social groups, with notable gender disparities among Blacks and Asians. The gender disparity in interracial marriage is concerning as it can diminish the marriage opportunities of the gender that intermarries less than its opposite-gender counterpart. This paper analyzes how the gender asymmetries in marital gains associated with interracial marriage have evolved and shaped the distribution of welfare in the marriage market. Using a structural model of marriage market equilibrium, I first show that marital gains from interracial marriage have improved only for some pairs, revealing substantial gender and education gaps. I then show that these un- even benefits across interracial marriage types have improved marriage probabilities for some groups (e.g. college-educated Black men) while limiting marriage prospects for others (e.g. Black women). I find that both (1) sex ratio imbalance and (2) gender gaps in marital gains from interracial marriage contributed to the gender gaps in marital prospects, but differently for different racial groups. Lastly, I show that removing the gender gaps in racial preferences in marriage, particularly in the direction of stronger racial integration, would improve marital prospects for all.

ID409 - The impact of special education on students with special needs

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Abstract

We use a reform in the Netherlands to study the impact of inclusive education on students with special educational needs (SEN). The reform shifted budgets for special education between regions: some regions had budget cuts of 30-35%. We observe a decrease in the percentage of students in special education in regions with budget cuts, especially for students likely to go to special education. We use the budget cuts as an instrumental variable for regular education attendance and conclude that students with SEN have benefitted from the reform. Students who went to regular secondary education because of the budget cuts more often obtained a starting qualification degree at age 18 and 19. This result is not driven by changes in the student/teacher ratio. The results indicate that an inclusive education setting is beneficial for students at the margin of special education.

ID412 - Parent Beliefs and Parent Investments

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Abstract

Parent investments are important determinants of children's skills, educational attainment and earnings. As differences in investments may partly be driven by differences in parent beliefs, it is desirable to learn more about parent beliefs. Using longitudinal data on parent beliefs, I first document several empirical facts about two types of parent beliefs: academic (children's skills) and social (sociability and social skills). Among these are that average academic beliefs about male children decline between the ages 11-12 and ages 13-14. Furthermore, social beliefs decline consistently with age for both genders. In addition, some parents may hold inaccurate academic beliefs --- some parents expect that their children will achieve higher levels of education than they actually attain. This suggests that parents may hold imperfect information about their children. Next, I examine the relationship between beliefs and investments. I find that parents who hold higher academic beliefs in the previous period invest less in their children, indicating that parents are adopting a compensating (equalising) investment strategy. In contrast, social beliefs in the previous period do not influence current investment decisions. Finally, I model belief updating and investigate the factors which trigger changes in parent beliefs over time. Results show that academic beliefs are revised upwards (downwards) when children's mathematics skills and health improve (worsen). Social beliefs are revised upwards (downwards) when children's health and school quality improve (worsen). Both academic and social beliefs are revised downwards (upwards) when children exhibit a higher (lower) level of behaviour problems.

ID413 - Having it all? Broadband technology and the growing divide between high and low skilled women

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Abstract

We investigate how broadband technology affects labor market outcomes and fertility among high and low skilled women. We leverage the staggered rollout of broadband internet in Norway during the period 2000-2005 and ask how broadband internet contributes to the growing divide between high and low skilled women's labor market outcomes and fertility choices. We find that employment and weekly working hours increased among high-skilled women and decreased among low-skilled women, consistent with broadband representing a skill-biased technical change. The overall effect on fertility go in the same direction as the labor market effects, increasing the number of children among high educated mothers. The diffusion of broadband internet contributed therefore to the ongoing reversal of the education-fertility relationship. We find evidence that negative effects on labor market returns may explain the reduced labor supply of low educated women. The positive effects on high educated women's labor supply and fertility seem more connected to an easing of the combination of work and family.

ID417 - Pension Caregiver Credits and the Gender Gap in Old-Age Income

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Abstract

We study a 2001 pension insurance reform in Germany that introduced additional caregiver credits for working mothers with children between the ages of 3 and 10. Using administrative social security data from Germany combined with a difference-in-differences design, we find that the reform leads to a 66.5% increase in yearly retirement contributions during the eligibility period. 66% of the total effect can be explained by a change in the labor market outcomes of eligible mothers, while the remaining 34% is the mechanical effect of the reform. We find a significant increase in employment earnings, driven by both an increase in employment and a switch from marginal to employment subject to social security contributions. This translates into a 9.1 percentage point (18.3%) reduction in the gender gap in lifetime earning points. Finally, a simple life-cycle model predicts that the pension reform leads to a 6.5% reduction in the gender gap in old-age income.

ID419 - Benefits and Drawbacks of Anticipating Job Loss

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Abstract

The possibility of anticipating their job termination exposes workers to stress and uncertainty, yet provides them with the chance to circumvent unemployment and all its associated disadvantages. This paper contrasts these opposing effects. Anticipating an upcoming job termination increases the prevalence of severe mental distress among affected workers by 11 percentage points. This mental burden does not spill over within couples, but anticipation triggers an added worker effect before the job termination occurs. In contrast, using the information shock to circumvent unemployment yields large benefits. Leaving a terminated position before its closure internalizes almost three-quarters of the scarring labour market consequences of the job termination. The mental health gain of avoiding unemployment fully nets out the negative anticipation effect. Last, I show that interventions assisting individuals in leaving terminated positions can be self-financing through reduced social benefit uptake and additional income tax revenue.

ID422 - How temperature on test dates influences primary school students' performance

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Abstract

This paper estimates the causal effect of exposure to extreme temperatures on students' reading and math performance in primary education. Using Dutch panel data between 2013 and 2023, we exploit exogenous variation in students' exposure at different municipalities over time. Our results show statistically significant negative effects of temperature on reading and math performance. These negative effects are mostly found for heat, and are most outspoken for math performance. Heterogeneity analyses at the student level seem to suggest heterogeneity among sex, migration background, parental education, and income; although the differences among these groups are non-significant. Our results have implications for policy regarding global warming.

ID423 - Cash Transfers and Fertility: From Short to Long Run

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Abstract

Many developed countries are at risk of experiencing population decline due to low fertility rates, with potential adverse economic effects. As a response, governments are deploying family policies to increase the number of children. In this paper, we propose a dynamic life-cycle model of fertility and female labor force participation to assess their effectiveness. We use the short-run fertility effects of a cash transfer policy implemented in Spain in 2007-2010 to calibrate its parameters. Using the calibrated model, we find that the impacts, in the long run, are half as large as in the short run. This is driven by differences in the responses of younger and older women at the time of implementation. The latter must react shortly after, as they cannot delay fertility much longer. The former have their first birth earlier. This generates additional births in the short run. We also study the effects of an alternative policy consisting of childcare subsidization and explore how the coexistence of temporary and permanent contracts in Spain, which have different earnings profiles, affects fertility and interacts with cash transfers by raising the costs of career interruptions in crucial child-bearing years.

ID425 - Increasing retirement age and mental health of older workers: the role of working conditions

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¹University of Turin, Dept. of Economics and Statistics "Cognetti de Martiis", Turin, Italy. ²University Savoie Mont Blanc, IREGÉ, Annecy-le-Vieux, France

Abstract

In this paper we investigate the effect of delaying retirement age on late-career mental health. We contribute to the recent literature on this issue by examining how this effect varies depending on workers' working conditions, exploiting exogenous data on job quality. Using pension reforms in several European countries, longitudinal data from the Survey of Health, Ageing and Retirement in Europe (SHARE) and the European Working Conditions Survey, we find that extending work horizon increases depression among older workers overall, but this effect is very dependent on working conditions. In particular, both female and male workers employed in lower-skilled jobs with less autonomy and decision-making power experience a greater increase in depression symptoms. Moreover, certain working conditions are more conducive to an increase in depression symptoms among men (e.g. high job intensity, poor social environment), while others play a greater role among women (e.g. poor physical conditions).

ID426 - Local Media Reports about Sexual Crimes and Judicial Outcomes in India

Mahima Vasishth

Bocconi University, Milan, India

Abstract

Does media coverage of sexual crimes affect judicial decision-making? I answer this question using rich administrative data on the universe of cases filed in lower courts in India. I combine this court data with high-frequency daily district-level media coverage of sexual crime events that are unrelated to the case on trial. Using a generalized difference-in-difference model, I find that judges are more likely to convict individuals charged with sexual crimes that carry low punishments. I find suggestive evidence that a central mechanism behind this result is heightened judicial scrutiny of these cases in response to greater media coverage. I do not find an impact on the more serious sexual crimes that may involve forensic evidence. These findings highlight the role of media as an extra-legal factor impacting judicial decision-making processes.

ID427 - Employment Booms and Infant Health: Evidence from the Ready-Made Garment Sector in Bangladesh

Mahima Vasishth

Bocconi University, Milano, Italy

Abstract

In this paper, I estimate the inter-generational health impact of maternal employment opportunities in the ready-made garment (RMG) industry in Bangladesh. This industry was exposed to a trade liberalization policy in 2005, which generated spatial and temporal variation in the establishment of garment factories and therefore, potential employment opportunities for women. Using a difference-in-difference strategy, I find that the expansion of this sector improved the probability of neonatal survival for children who are born in areas that experience higher growth in employment opportunities post trade liberalization. This is driven by the improved labor market participation by mothers, enabling them to delay childbirth and improve their intra-household bargaining power.

ID428 - Eliciting and Shaping Beliefs About Shared Parental Leave

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Abstract

Despite the growing availability of paternity leave policies across the world, most fathers do not take any leave at all or only a small proportion of what they are eligible for. This could be driven by families only marginally valuing the time that fathers spend with their newborn children. Using a novel survey on a nationally representative sample of child-bearing individuals in the UK, we elicit beliefs about the Shared Parental Leave (SPL) policy. We show that individuals importantly and positively value an additional week of leave taken by the father, instead of the mother, on a range of outcomes pertaining to the well-being of the mother, the father, and the child. We further show that gender attitudes importantly predicts returns of SPL across most outcomes analyzed, and that a simple information experiments results in individuals positively updating their beliefs of returns to paternal leave.

ID430 - Timing of school entry and personality traits in adulthood

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Abstract

This paper investigates the long-run consequences of a later school start on personality traits. For identification, we exploit the statutory cutoff rules for school enrollment in Germany within a regression discontinuity design. The longitudinal nature of our personality data allows us to study the effects at different stages in adulthood. We find that a later school start persistently reduces the levels of neuroticism among women. The effects on other personality traits, if anything, are transitory and coincide with important life events. The findings potentially carry important implication for gender gaps in the labor market because women typically score significantly higher on neuroticism at all life stages, which puts them at a disadvantage.

ID437 - Gender equality norms among generations:Evidence from a representative sample

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Abstract

Using a representative survey of the Italian population (N=1,501) we elicit gender norms on housework duties allocation in couples with the Krupka- Weber method (Krupka and Weber (2013)). We present respondents with a set of vignettes depicting hypothetical scenarios in which duties allocation, allocation proposer's gender, and labor market relative participation of the partners vary; we ask participants to rate the social appropriateness of different chores allocations in different scenarios arising by the intersection of the dimensions above. We document the decline of the "Male as the Bread-Winner Model" among young adults, the existence of a Gender Double standard -which does not affect young adults-, and a framing effect.

ID440 - The Effect of the End of Hiring Incentives on Job and Employment Security

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Abstract

We analyse the impact of the end of the hiring incentives introduced in Italy through the Budget Law for 2015 on job and employment security. Despite the large use of incentives across OECD countries, the literature on this is surprisingly scant. The subsidies aimed to foster hirings under open-ended contracts through very generous social security rebates. The application of a non-linear difference-in-differences specification to high-frequency population-wide employer-employee administrative data source from a large Italian region within a duration setting, suggests that separations spike at the subsidy's expiration, implying that direct employment effects were at best temporary. Nonetheless, incentives may have benefitted workers beyond their capacity to stay in the subsidized job (what is labelled *job security*), i.e. through human capital and experience effects, incentives may have raised the workers' probability to remain employed across different jobs. Indeed, by applying our model to employment rather than job spells, we find that the probability to move to non-employment when the subsidies expire does not significantly change, suggesting that benefitted workers do not enjoy better longer-term employment perspectives thanks to the incentive programme. Heterogeneity analysis shows individuals with tertiary education suffer less from the reduced job security, while no distributive effect emerges in terms of employment security.

ID443 - Career Blocker

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Abstract

Internal promotions are an important source of wage growth, especially for workers who are initially trained in the firm - often blue-collar workers with no college degree. What happens to these workers when internal promotions, especially to top positions, become more difficult? First, we document a decline in the probability of being hired internally into top positions for initial apprentices over a long period of time in Germany using administrative employer-employee data. In contrast to standard wage-ladder models, in which a decline in internal promotion prospects is offset by an increase in an individual's prospects of being hired externally, we show a large and increasing role of firm components in external vs. internal hiring. While for some firms a high proportion of individuals are promoted internally and externally, an increasing number of firms offer neither internal nor external promotion prospects. We use a difference-in-differences event study approach to understand the impact of a shift in a firm's hiring policy from internal to external hiring for top positions on workers in positions below the top. We find that such a shift is associated with a decrease in the probability of workers reaching the top position and an increase in the probability of workers leaving the firm. In ongoing work, we aim to causally identify these effects and relate our causal estimates to recent trends in the German wage structure.

ID445 - The impact of childhood inter-ethnic contact on hiring decisions

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Abstract

This paper analyzes whether inter-ethnic contact in childhood affects the hiring behavior of managers. To overcome selection bias, we exploit quasi- random variation in the share of immigrant students across cohorts within Danish schools. Using administrative employer-employee data, we find that more immigrant peers of the same gender in school lead Danish managers to hire more immigrants later in life. We do not find any evidence that this relationship is driven by economic opportunities, nor that the share of immigrants affects the managers' residential choices.

ID446 - Retargeting of anti-poverty programs and intimate partner violence

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Abstract

We explore whether retargeting of anti-poverty programs leads to changes in intimate partner violence (IPV) over the long-term. We use nationally-representative survey data and an instrumental variable approach to show that losing eligibility to Ecuador's flagship cash transfer program, Bono de Desarrollo Humano, increases IPV in the past 12 months. This effect is driven by separated women who selected out of previous relationships, possibly due to partners being prone to violence. Among currently partnered women, we only observe increased IPV for a subset of women who are low educated, or who were exposed to domestic abuse in childhood. Possible mechanisms include increased conflicts possibly resulting from a shift in decision-making away from women and more progressive attitudes rejecting IPV after losing transfers. Our results highlight the importance of monitoring and mitigating risks associated with the roll-back of anti-poverty programs.

ID449 - Choking upon Facing (Fe)male Opponents? Evidence from Debate Tournaments

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Abstract

Does the gender composition of opponents affect the performance of men and women in real-world contests? This research exploits the random assignment of 3153 participants to multiple rounds of debate matches in high-profile professional debate tournaments to study the causal impact of the gender composition of opponents on speech performance. I find that, on average, the performance of neither men nor women is affected by the gender composition of opponents. In higher-ranked debates, female speakers perform comparatively worse in rooms with more female opponents. These results indicate that more inflow of women into competitions for high-profile careers does not necessarily reduce the thickness of the glass ceiling.

ID450 - Classroom rank in math and career choices

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Abstract

We study the impact of classroom rank in math on subsequent educational and occupational choices, as well as labor market outcomes. Using the Swiss section of the PISA-2012 student achievement data linked to administrative student register data and earning records from 2012-2020, we exploit differences in math achievement distributions across classes to estimate the effect of students' ordinal rank in the classroom. We find that students with a higher classroom rank in math are more likely to select into training occupations that require a higher share of math and science skills. We then show this has lasting effects on earnings in the labor market several years after completing compulsory school and is associated with a higher willingness to invest in occupation specific further education. We use detailed subject specific survey information to show that students rank in math is associated with an increase in perceived ability in math and with increasing willingness to provide effort in math. The latter channel may offset potential consequences for occupation mismatch if occupational choices are based on perceived rather than actual ability, as we do not find that rank based decisions lead to increases in occupational changes.

ID452 - Return-to-Work Policies for Disability Insurance Recipients: The Role of Financial Incentives

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Abstract

What is the impact of reducing financial incentives of the AWP, a program that allows individuals on Disability Insurance (DI) to combine salary and benefits? Does this encourage employment resumption, or conversely, does it push individuals back into full benefit dependency? Using a rich set of administrative data, our study leverages a kink in the AWP's design and applies RKD to infer the causal impact of a 30% increase in marginal taxation rates on labor supply. Our findings reveal that, after crossing the kink, the probability of DI recipients to exit the AWP increases in 5.9%. Further analysis of exit paths indicates a 3% increase in the probability of returning to full DI and a 1.3% impact on the probability of full work resumption. We also show that men are more sensitive to taxation than women, and that women are more inclined to return to full DI. Individuals with mental health conditions tend to opt for full DI after the tax increase, while those with musculoskeletal conditions are more likely to return to full-time employment. Blue-collar workers and individuals on long-term DI exhibit a greater responsiveness to taxation changes. These findings hold significant relevance for the design of return-to-work policies for DI recipients, shaping a path toward more effective and inclusive strategies.

ID453 - The Long-Run Impact of Increasing School Funding on Educational and Labor Market Outcomes

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Abstract

This paper investigates a range of long-term effects of increasing school funding, based on a mid-eighties intergovernmental transfer reform in Norway, which shifted grant criteria for education at the local level, creating a quasi-random shock in spending on primary and lower secondary education. By combining extensive municipal and individual data, the study examines the impact of increased funding on local educational inputs and individual outcomes, including cognitive abilities, educational attainment, and labor market performance in adulthood. The analysis leverages an aspect of the reform, which had significantly increased funding for municipalities with a higher proportion of primary school-aged students. The additional funding led to higher work hours among school employees without affecting staff income or class size, indicating a shift towards more intensive instruction. At the individual level, estimated increases on education funding positively affected labor income, educational attainment, and cognitive abilities, especially for those exposed to the funding increase at a younger age. The effects are sizeable and above the average found in the literature for educational attainment, but only for students exposed at the first grades of schooling. Besides, the effect was more pronounced for individuals from lower socioeconomic backgrounds, both in parametric and non-parametric approaches. Furthermore, this study presents a comprehensive analysis of the long-term impacts of education funding on student outcomes, contributing to the growing literature on the effects of education spending, particularly in the context of Norway's unique education system and labor market structure.

ID454 - Compulsory Military Service and Health in the GDR

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Abstract

This paper investigates the long-term health effects of the introduction of conscription in the German Democratic Republic (GDR) as a quasi-natural experiment. Our analysis draws on the German Socio-Economic Panel (SOEP), administrative from the GDR, and Hospital Statistics from the German Federal Statistical Office. Using a regression-discontinuity design, We first show that individuals born in 1938, exhibit a higher probability of being drafted compared to their counterparts born in 1937 or earlier. While conscripts show a slight increase in hospitalization rates, particularly for musculoskeletal disorders, no significant effects on mental health admissions are observed. We also document a positive association between conscription and tertiary education. This research contributes empirical evidence to the limited literature on the health implications of peacetime military service, especially in authoritarian states.

ID456 - Prison Break: Rehabilitation Programs, Recidivism, and Labor Market Outcomes

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Abstract

Prison rehabilitation programs can offer individuals a second chance to rebuild their lives. This paper examines the impact of the Prevention of Recidivism Program, a prison-based job training and skills development program, introduced in the Netherlands in 2007. To assess the causal impact of the program on recidivism and labor market outcomes of prisoners upon release, I use a difference-in-differences strategy exploiting unique rich administrative data from Statistics Netherlands and the Dutch Ministry of Justice and Security. The analysis reveals that individuals exposed to the program are 6.4 percentage point less likely to re-offend over a period of two years. While no significant effect is observed on the probability of post-release employment, participants in the program exhibit a 5 percent increase in average annual earnings within three years after release. This study highlights the potential of rehabilitation programs in facilitating the successful reintegration of former inmates into society.

ID458 - Minimum Wages and Low Wage Workers: Compliance as non-employment margin

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Abstract

We examine the labor market implications of a significant minimum wage increase in a middle-income economy like Uruguay. Through a comparison of individuals exposed and non-exposed to the minimum wage, our study reveals a positive impact on wages, with no discernible effects on employment or hours worked. Furthermore, additional empirical findings show a decrease in compliance with the minimum wage law after the minimum wage hikes. This evidence indicates that firms resort to the non-employment margin of adjustment in an environment marked by low enforcement.

ID462 - Does the Share of Female Judges Assigned to Supreme Court Cases Affect Trial Outcomes?

Rigissa Megalokonomou

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Abstract

Recent research has focused on the consequences of females' underrepresentation in prestigious occupations. In this paper, I examine whether the presence of more female judges in judicial committees influences trial outcomes. The identification strategy relies on the fact that the gender composition of judicial committees is orthogonal to the characteristics of the case, and thus to the gender and other characteristics of the plaintiff or the defendant. To study this question, I use novel data on more than 3,500 appeals cases that have been decided by first-level courts and are subject to re-evaluation by the Supreme Court in Greece. Five judges are randomly assigned to each case, and trial outcomes are the product of a voting process among the assigned judges. My results suggest that an increase in the proportion of female judges in the committee leads to significantly harsher decisions towards the defendants, or more favourable/lenient decisions toward the plaintiffs. This suggests that female judges exhibit a higher level of compassion for victims. The estimated effects vanish when the plaintiff is a not an individual, but it is the bank or the government instead. Using panel data information on judges, I show that this behavior is driven by judges who are relatively inexperienced in the judicial sector. When I allow for nonlinearities, I find that the addition of just one female judge in the committee is enough for the panel to adopt a more favourable attitude toward the plaintiff.

ID463 - Safer in School? Compulsory Schooling Reduces Maltreatment and Associated Harms

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Abstract

Abused and neglected children are at extreme risk of school dropout, poor health, and destructive behaviours, yet evidence on interventions that prevent maltreatment and its harms is limited. We use an Australian education reform to examine whether additional compulsory schooling improves maltreatment-related outcomes. Using administrative records on all children and regression-discontinuity techniques, we find the reform reduced maltreatment reported to Child Protection Services (CPS). Among adolescents with past CPS involvement, it also reduced emergency healthcare, pregnancies, and abortions. Our findings suggest school attendance can improve child safety and reduce maltreatment-related harms, with an incapacitation effect as the likely mechanism.

ID471 - The Ambivalence about Pregnancy: Expectations and Preferences

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Abstract

This study utilizes novel expectations data from the National Longitudinal Survey of Youth 1997 to investigate the factors contributing to high rates of unintended pregnancy in the United States. Our results reveal that misinformation or systematic differences in beliefs about contraceptive attributes play a limited role in explaining the prevalence of unintended pregnancies across various demographic segments. Notably, women from groups with disproportionately higher rates of unintended pregnancies, such as Black women, exhibit relatively accurate perceptions about contraceptive effectiveness. We next combine data from contraception choice with probabilistic beliefs data to make inference on women's preferences for birth control methods' attributes. We find that effectiveness against pregnancy and STD, partner's disapproval of a method, the risk of side effects, and costs are all important factors in the decision to choose a particular birth control method. Importantly, we find heterogeneity in preferences for becoming pregnant: White women with a college degree would be willing to pay \$160 per month to avoid a pregnancy, while Black women without a degree have a willingness to pay to avoid pregnancy not statistically different from zero. This underscores that differences in contraception choices and outcomes primarily stem from varying preferences for experiencing pregnancy, particularly evident in groups with high rates of unintended pregnancies.

ID472 - The Role of Public Space: Libraries and Racial Inequality in Education

Lisa Hanzl

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Abstract

Gaps in educational outcomes between white and non-white children in the United States are still stark. Public infrastructure potentially mitigates these inequalities. This paper examines the impact of public library closures, a loss of public indoor space, on U.S. educational outcomes between 2009 and 2018. Analyzing geo-located data on library closures and using an event study approach, findings reveal that test scores declined in school districts that experienced closures. The effect is especially pronounced in districts with a predominantly non-white student body. A further mechanism analysis suggests that losing quiet study space and internet access might be key drivers behind this effect.

ID477 - Sources of Regional Variation in Intergenerational Mobility

Lieke Beekers

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Abstract

In this paper, I investigate if and at what age the place where a child grows up has an effect on the intergenerational transmission of income and education outcomes later in life, using rich Dutch administrative data. I disentangle potential causal effects of place from other confounding factors by using the movers exposure design as developed by Chetty and Hendren (2018), thereby exploiting variation across children's ages at the time their parents move to another region. I extend on this quasi-experimental framework by testing and controlling for non-constant selection effects across children's age at move, based on pre-move track choices made by children. My results suggest that the place where a child spends their childhood does not matter for socioeconomic outcomes observed directly after childhood. However, such a place effect becomes apparent for educational attainment observed during childhood: every additional year spent in a place with a one percentage point higher probability of enrolling into a high secondary education track, will increase children's own probability of following such a track with 5%. Furthermore, I provide suggestive evidence on non-constant sorting effects across children's ages at the time their families move, around targeted track choice ages. My results point towards the short-lasting importance of place on socioeconomic outcomes later in life in a country which employs a early-tracking.

ID478 - Social desirability bias in attitudes towards sexism and DEI policies in the workplace

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Abstract

Do workers speak their mind about sexism and about diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) policies in the workplace? We measure social desirability bias regarding sexism and DEI policies using a list experiment survey among workers from five male-dominated industries in France and in the US. In both countries and, remarkably, among both men and women, we document substantial social desirability bias. Managers exhibit a larger bias than non-managerial employees. This difference between voiced and real attitudes may make organizations overestimate support for DEI policies in their workforce, rendering such policies less effective.

ID479 - New home, Old neighbors? Ethnic Enclaves and Refugees' Education Outcomes

Emiel van Bezooijen

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Abstract

We examine whether the neighborhood concentration of ethnic peers affects the school performance of refugee children in the Netherlands. We estimate intent-to-treat effects of initial neighborhood co-ethnic concentration and co-ethnic earnings on primary school- and later education outcomes, leveraging a Dutch refugee dispersal policy between 1999 and 2009. Focusing on refugee children who arrive in the Netherlands before the age of 14, we find that the effect of neighborhood co-ethnic concentration is moderated by the earnings of co-ethnic network members, especially for later-age education outcomes. Being assigned to a neighborhood with a higher concentration of co-ethnics improves school performance of refugee children when co-ethnic earnings are relatively high, while there can be adverse effects for lower levels for co-ethnic earnings

ID480 - Impact of Generative AI Information on Vocational College Students' Career Preferences: a Randomized Controlled Trial

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Abstract

Abstract : Utilizing a Randomized Controlled Trial, our research explores whether and how exposure to various kinds of information about Generative AI affects career preferences between white- and blue-collar jobs among vocational college students. Our findings suggest that presenting a conceptual comprehension of Generative AI may have intensified students' anxieties regarding the prospects of white-collar jobs, as compared to the message that also includes its real-life applications. In addition, our interventions have a positive and significant effect on their perception of future income, and this effect is predominantly driven by the students who initially prefer white-collar jobs. Finally, our results exhibit gender heterogeneous effects.

Keywords: Information Intervention, Randomized Controlled Trial, Vocational Education Training, Job Expectation, Technological Change, Artificial Intelligence

ID481 - Monopsony: wages and job requirements

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¹jku linz, linz, Austria. ²Ministry of Labor and the Economy, Vienna, Austria

Abstract

Monopsony gives firms the power to reduce wage payments to workers while on the other hand requirements for applicants could rise. We use unique data for Austria where we can observe vacancies with posted wages along with actual wages paid to workers on the job to explore how monopsony power of firms manifests itself in wage negotiations. Preliminary results show that actual wages as well as job amenities are lower in monopsony situations, whereas firms require higher qualifications from applying workers.

ID482 - Subsidised school meals and children educational achievement: the case of Barcelona

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Abstract

This paper is the first to provide, in the European context, credible causal estimates of the impact of a means-tested programme that subsidises school lunches on educational achievement (standardised test scores and annual grades). We use administrative data from the city of Barcelona for the whole universe of applications to the school-meal subsidies programme. Using a Regression Discontinuity Design we measure the effect of receiving a partial subsidy as opposed to none while a Difference-in-Differences strategy allows us to account for the effect of receiving a full subsidy compared to a partial one. Our results indicate an overall positive effect of the subsidies on educational achievement on all analysed subjects but our estimates only attain conventional statistical significance for Catalan language. Heterogeneous results indicate that who benefits the most are boys from relatively poor backgrounds that attend large schools where their peers are, on average, more advantaged. The possibility of communicating and socialising during lunch with children more linguistically competent is likely the mechanism behind our main findings.

ID483 - The Incentive Effects of Sickness Benefit for the Unemployed -- Analysis of a Reduction in Potential Benefit Duration

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Abstract

In Hungary, employees could claim sickness benefits within 3 days of job-loss, which would enable them to extend their total benefit duration by up to 90 days during their unemployment spell. The maximum number of days of this 'sickness benefit for unemployed' was halved in 2007. Analysing the impacts of this reform on benefit-claiming behaviour and job finding we attempt to infer if the use of 'sickness benefit for unemployed' was used by some unemployed to access a more generous benefit in its amount and duration. First, we show that claiming sickness benefit was related to the monetary advantage relative to claiming unemployment insurance benefits and was more prevalent for higher-income individuals and for workers with longer tenure, both leading to higher sickness benefits than unemployment benefits. We also look at benefit take-up and find that a large portion of lost sickness benefit days were substituted by taking up unemployment insurance benefit and the effect of potential benefit duration on the transitions to stable employment. We show that the timing of starting a new job was affected in that the reform decreased job finding rate right after the pre-reform maximum duration and increased job finding right after the new maximum. These results are driven by individuals who might be in better health condition based on their past sick-leave take-up. Our findings along with some descriptive evidence are suggestive that a non-negligible proportion of the group of unemployed who go on sick-leave were subject to moral hazard.

ID489 - Fathers' parental leave take-up and gender composition of the workplace

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Abstract

We investigate whether there are large differences in reform effect on parental leave take-up across workplaces with different gender compositions, when a more generous paternal leave is introduced. We use regression discontinuity design to study the causal effect of the reform on the take-up of parental leave days by fathers and study whether the effect varies across workplaces with different gender-distributions. We do, indeed, find differences in take-up and parental leave length after the reform across workplaces with different gender-distributions. Additionally, we find fathers to postpone the usage of the leave for later than pre-reform. Even if the reform increased paternal leave to some extent, we find no effects on improved wellbeing of families nor improved gender equality with the crude measures we have in the register data.

ID492 - Conflict and Skill-Specific Migration - Evidence from the War on Drugs in Mexico

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Abstract

This paper examines the impact of regional violent conflict on skill-specific migration decisions. Employing rich individual-level panel data at the quarterly level for 2000 to 2014 we use a difference-in-differences strategy that exploits plausibly exogenous variation in conflict during the Mexican War on Drugs. We show that living in a municipality of conflict significantly increased migration within Mexico and to the United States. Analyzing education-specific migration patterns, we find that individuals with 12 years of schooling (university entrance degree) in conflict-ridden municipalities react by migrating to the United States, while those with less than 12 years of schooling migrate both internally and internationally. Assessing individuals by their occupational skills reveals distinctive patterns: Individuals with higher cognitive and higher manual skills (e.g. architects and engineers) react by migrating to the United States only, while those with high cognitive-low manual skills (e.g. professors and doctors) do not change their migration behavior. In contrast, individuals with low cognitive occupational skills (e.g. construction workers and truck drivers) react by migrating internally and internationally, with a stronger effect on internal migration. These findings shed light on the skill-specific migration dynamics in response to regional violent conflict, which may impact the distribution of the regional human capital stock.

ID493 - Sexual Violence and Reproductive Coercion in India

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Abstract

This paper investigates whether sexual violence is used as a means of reproductive coercion. We propose an instrumental reason for sexual violence, which is that men use it to ensure that household fertility aligns with their preferences. Using representative survey data for India, we find that sexual violence is higher in the 22% of families in which men desire larger families than their wives. This is driven by families and by states characterised by higher degrees of son preference. We investigate whether changing norms around the relative value of sons and daughters reduces sexual violence against women through changing fertility preferences, leveraging exposure to a recent policy (Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao) which sought to do exactly this. We find that exposure to the policy does lower sexual violence against women, and lowers the probability a man desires more children than his wife, particularly in households with high son preference in fertility.

ID494 - Sheepskin effects and heterogenous wage-setting behaviour

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Abstract

Using a unique panel survey of final-year undergraduates at six of the largest universities in Mozambique, we study the wage premium associated with completing an undergraduate degree. Conditional on a very rich set of controls, including pre-degree earnings, objective measures of ability, and academic performance, we find heterogeneity in ‘sheepskin effects’ across different kinds of firms. We propose a simple model of wage-setting in which productivity is only partially observable in some firms and fully observable in others. In this setting, education serves both to enhance productivity and as a productivity signal. Consistent with the theory, positions where productivity is likely to be less observable offer larger sheepskin effects.

ID497 - Breaking Free from Traditional Gender Roles: Post-Schooling Impacts of Enhanced Opportunities for Immigrant Women

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Abstract

We provide new evidence that birthright citizenship can have large effects on immigrant children's school degree and further education, concentrated on women with a Muslim origin. We take advantage of a reform which granted automatic birthright citizenship to eligible immigrant children born in Germany after 1 January 2000. Using social security data of almost 100,000 eligible adults born close before and after

the cut off, we show that naturalization lead to strong increases in completing the academic school track and university enrollment. These effects are particularly pronounced for young Muslim women, for whom previous research has shown that the reform increased conformism in traditional gender roles. Our results give evidence that, despite facing significant obstacles related to naturalization, young migrant women successfully utilize the opportunities of citizenship in the longer run.

ID502 - Intergenerational earnings mobility of first-generation Scandinavians

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Abstract

Motivated by the increasing fraction of children with immigrant parents in rich destination countries, we study intergenerational earnings mobility by the origin country of parents. Using comparable administrative data from the Scandinavian destination countries, we document significantly higher upward mobility among native-born children of immigrant parents compared to the majority with native parents. In all three host countries, we find that the mobility differential is explained by earnings mobility of girls. Native-born children of immigrants acquire more schooling than children of natives with similar parental earnings. This mean difference masks substantial heterogeneity, since children of immigrants are more likely to be high school dropouts, but also much more likely to have completed an advanced degree.

ID504 - Labor Demand and Workforce Diversity: Evidence from Two Natural Experiments

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Abstract

Recent research documents the lack of diversity in labor markets, especially in academia. Increasing workforce diversity is often stated as a goal and one of the challenges of modern labor markets. In this paper, we address the question whether diversity increases, even without any targeted policy interventions, when labor markets become tighter. We study the academic labor market for professors in Germany, a traditionally slack labor market in which males are over-represented and in which closed networks may play an important role. We explore two natural experiments that unexpectedly increased labor demand for professors. First, using newly digitized administrative data from the German Federal Statistical Office on academic staff during the German university expansion in the 1960s and 70s, we document an increase in the share of female professors from 0.6% in 1960 to about 4% in 1977. Second, we explore between-subject variation in university staff replacements in East Germany that followed the German Reunification. Using administrative micro-data on university personnel, we find that nine years after the fall of the German wall professors are significantly younger in the Social Sciences (strongly affected by replacements) compared to STEM (barely affected), in the East relative to the West. There is no significant change in the share of female professors, but a significant and sizeable increase in diversity of academic backgrounds. Our analyses demonstrate that positive labor demand shocks can contribute to more diversity and, even without targeted policy interventions, can have the potential to break up some of the "Old-Boys' Club".

ID505 - Estimating the Returns to Occupational Licensing: Evidence from Regression Discontinuities at the Bar Exam

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Abstract

Occupational licensing regulations require workers in many professions to meet specific education, training, and testing requirements to perform a specific type of work. A major finding in the literature on licensing is a significant wage premium for licensed workers. Yet, the existing literature has yet to find a credible exogenous variation for licensing status to fully account for unobserved characteristics and sorting into licensed professions. Focusing on the Italian bar exam, we use a regressions discontinuity approach to identify the causal effect of occupational licensing on earnings. Our results indicate that the returns to licensing are significant and constant throughout a worker's lifetime.

ID509 - Beaming Tutors into Students' Homes? An Online Tutoring Intervention with Low-Performing Students

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Abstract

This study investigates the effectiveness of an online tutoring program for low-performing students in Germany. The program provided tutors from a pool of volunteer university students who offered online tutoring for free. In a randomized experiment involving 839 secondary school students, our results show that online tutoring had positive effects on school grades in Math and English eight months after initiation, with treatment-on-the-treated (ToT) effects comparable to those of in-person tutoring programs. Our mechanism analysis reveals no impact on students' socio-emotional skills, effort, study time, or aspirations, suggesting potential improvements in learning efficiency or content understanding. Our findings provide evidence that online tutoring is an effective, flexible, and cost-efficient method for supporting low-performing students, which can be easily implemented at large scale.

ID510 - Land Acquisition and Sectoral Composition: Evidence from India

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Abstract

In many emerging economies, compulsory land acquisition by the government is an integral part of industrial policy. This use of eminent domain, especially in fragmented land markets, ensures private investors are not burdened by potentially prohibitively high negotiation costs in the land acquisition process. While this tool might stimulate industrialisation and bring about allocative efficiency, it comes at a cost: those whose land is expropriated suffer long-term welfare losses. To investigate this trade-off, this paper studies the impact of an increase in land acquisition costs on industrial development using an unexpected reform that placed restrictions on compulsory land acquisition for Special Economic Zones (SEZs) in India. I combine this policy shock with ex-ante variation across Indian states in compulsory acquisition policy for SEZs in a difference-in-differences design. I find that this increase in land acquisition costs reduces the average size of SEZs because its industrial composition changes, with the share of manufacturing decreasing by almost 40 percent. Using novel data on SEZ proposals, I show that this effect is mostly driven by lower intentions to entry, with no significant differences in actual SEZ operations. Moreover, I show using a spatial difference-in-differences design that manufacturing SEZs under the new policy contribute more to local employment than their older counterparts. I reconcile these findings through the Hopenhayn (1992) model, which shows that a higher entry cost reduces entry but induces selection.

ID511 - The Production of Meaningful Work

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Abstract

Many people derive a sense of impact and purpose from their job – they consider work to be a source of meaning. But what makes work meaningful? The theoretical literature identified four pathways: benefice (the sense of making a positive impact), autonomy (freedom in decision making), relatedness (a connection to colleagues or one's job), and competence (the use of talents and skills). In this paper, we empirically assess the importance of each pathway. First, we run an exploratory factor analysis, which confirms four orthogonal factors in our data consistent with the theoretical model. We then estimate a structural factor model and a production function to assess the importance of each factor in the production of work meaning. We find that benefice is the most important factor followed by relatedness, a standard deviation of which increases work meaning by roughly one half and one quarter of a standard deviation. Competence and autonomy matter less. Finally, we show that different benefits of work meaning relate to different pathways. Turnover intent and job satisfaction are more strongly related to relatedness, competence, and autonomy, whereas meaning in life is more strongly related to benefice. We find that women experience more work meaning than men. This gender gap is decreasing over the income distribution. This gender gap is driven by benefice and relatedness. The income gradient in the work meaning gender gap is driven by design and counteracted by relatedness and benefice.

ID518 - The Spillover Effects of Maternity Leave Extensions on Unemployment Insurance

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Abstract

This paper presents new evidence on the relationship between motherhood, maternity leave policies, and unemployment insurance (UI) participation. Using German administrative data, we show that more than 32% of mothers that gave birth between 1975 and 2017 received UI benefits, concentrated in the months after the expiration of paid maternity leave. We then exploit a reform in Germany to show that extensions of maternity leave reduce mothers' UI take-up by 19% and total unemployment benefits by 21% in the first five years after childbirth. The timing of the reduction suggests mothers use UI as a substitute for income replacement in the absence of paid leave. Importantly for welfare calculations, the reduction in UI benefits is substantial and represents 68% of the increase in maternity leave benefits.

ID520 - Effects of In-Person Therapy and Long Treatment Waiting Lists: Evidence from a Randomized Controlled Trial Implemented in Denmark

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Abstract

We implemented a randomized controlled trial to measure the impact of offering specialized psychological help to people who have grown up in families with alcohol or drug problems and are seeking help, as well as the consequences of the long waiting times these people often face before they begin to receive help. As part of this project, half the recruited participants started the intervention immediately after randomization, the other half 12 months after randomization (which is less than they would have had to wait if they had not taken part in the study).

We measure the impact of being offered TUBA's counselling intervention on participants' psychological health using data collected 12 months after randomization. Prior to this data collection, only treatment participants had been offered the intervention, while control participants had been placed on a waiting list. We find that the intervention increased participants' well-being by 0.54 standard deviations and reduced symptoms of psychological distress, depression, and post-traumatic stress disorder by 0.33 to 0.39 standard deviations.

We measure the impact of having to wait for a year before being able to start TUBA's counselling intervention (compared with immediate start-up) using data collected two to three years after control participants were offered to start the intervention. We show that having to wait for a year before starting treatment had a negative impact on individuals in the medium run. Their well-being remained 0.22 standard deviations lower, and symptoms of depression and post-traumatic stress disorder remained higher by 0.26 and 0.20 standard deviations.

ID521 - Unemployment Insurance with Response Heterogeneity

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Abstract

The generosity of social insurance coverage often increases with the beneficiary's age and their contribution time to social security, but existing policies vary considerably. We study the differentiation of unemployment insurance (UI) generosity by evaluating how the insurance-incentive trade-off varies with age and contribution time. We exploit numerous discontinuities in potential benefit duration in Germany. Contribution time in the last three years carries information on job search efforts, as it is associated with lower moral hazard responses and fiscal externality. We find no significant response heterogeneity in age or longer contribution time horizons. Contrasting these gradients with an approximated insurance value for four UI regimes, we document that steepening the potential benefit duration schedule in contribution time and flattening it in age would have increased welfare.

ID523 - The Effect of Online Learning Mandates on Students' Academic Performance in Italy

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Abstract

This paper studies the short and medium-term effects of COVID-19-induced online learning on academic performance in Italy, isolating it from the overall effect of the pandemic. Most related studies rely on comparing the academic performance of a pre and a post-COVID cohort to estimate the overall effect of the pandemic. Using repeated cross-sections of coexisting students differently exposed to online learning, we isolate its effect from the rest of the side effects of the pandemic. Throughout most of the 2020/21 school year, governmental regulations mandated upper-secondary school students to follow their lessons online while preserving in-presence teaching at lower education levels. Using the student population performance in a standardized test, we implement a DD strategy comparing grade 13 (age 19) and grade 8 (age 14) students before and after the introduction of the online learning mandates. We further complement this analysis by estimating a triple-DD model exploiting across-region variation of online learning exposure generated by the local spread of the virus. Students who followed their lessons online in 2020/21 suffered considerable learning losses in 2021 and 2022, which increased further in 2023. Learning losses are larger in reading than in mathematics. Important differences emerge when looking into sub-groups: on average, girls do better than boys; those from the highest ESCS quartile suffered the most in 2021, but recovered from 2022 onwards. Student and teacher questionnaires are currently being analysed to provide evidence on behaviours that can explain the estimated effects of online learning on academic performance.

ID524 - Trends in Adolescents' Social Relationships with Peers and Teachers before, during and after COVID-19

Jacqueline Charpentier, Vera Ronda, Trudie Schils

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Abstract

Recent literature has paid considerable attention to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on students. Much of this literature has focused on identifying academic consequences such as learning losses and increasing inequalities of opportunities. The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on social wellbeing and the formation of social relationships has received relatively less attention, even though developing strong and positive social relationships during adolescence is an essential part to wellbeing later in life. A disturbance in this development can lead to lower mental health and quality of life, and higher levels of anxiety. Using rich and unique data, this paper investigates peer and teacher social relationships trends before, during and after the COVID-19 pandemic.

The analysis is based on bi-annual data of 9th graders in the Dutch province of Limburg in the Netherlands. Linear regressions show a negative disturbance of teacher relations during the pandemic, though this trend recovers after the pandemic. Additionally, we observe a significant decline in peer social relations during the pandemic. Contrary to teacher relations, peer relations do not recover after the pandemic, indicating a trend break. Results are largely driven by girls and students in the lowest education track.

Our results encourage researchers to investigate potential mechanisms and mediators of social relationships. For instance, we document a strong moderating effect of social media usage. Furthermore, we encourage policy makers to acknowledge that rehabilitating learning losses is only one element of combating the impact of COVID-19 on students.

ID526 - Understanding the non-take up of the Italian Minimum Income Scheme

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Abstract

In recent years Minimum Income Schemes gained attention as policy tools aimed at providing a safety net to those that fall in poverty. Yet, much literature shows that the take up of these measures is far from being complete, posing serious challenges for policy makers. However, most of the existing evidence focuses on welfare states with a relatively high GDP and low unemployment, such as Anglo-Saxon, Central European and Scandinavian welfare states. In this work we provide for the first time estimates of the take up of a Minimum Income Scheme in a Southern European welfare state, based on administrative data. We do this in Italy using administrative data from the Italian National Social Security Institute (INPS). We estimate an average take up of 61.3% in 2021. However, our estimates at the monthly and at the subnational level reveal relevant seasonal and geographical variations in take up. While the take up tends to be higher in Southern regions, our results show a steep decrease in take up from July 2021 onwards across all macro-areas. This might be linked to improved labour market conditions following the phasing out of the lockdown and social distancing measures. Finally, our multivariate analysis shows that household members labour market status and policy design elements, have a stable impact on eligibility over time, while their relationship with take up displays significant monthly variation within one year.

ID528 - Earnings Dynamics and Selection in Health Insurance Markets

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Abstract

This paper investigates how incorporating earnings dynamics into an insurance demand model affects estimates of adverse selection in health insurance markets. Using Utah All-payer Claims Data and Utah UI records, this paper empirically estimates a structural demand model that jointly considers earnings dynamics and medical risks. Relative to a model in which health insurance demand only depends on medical risks, I find that incorporating earnings dynamics causes the estimated equilibrium take-up rate to decrease by 10.32%, premiums to increase by \$100, but deadweight loss from selection to decrease by \$17.42 per person. Including earnings dynamics in the model dampens the connection between willingness to pay and insurers' average costs. Counterfactual analyses show that Affordable Care Act style lower-earner favored subsidy does not increase equilibrium insurance take-up rate as much as an equivalently costly fixed subsidy. Furthermore, welfare increases if public insurance expansion to lower-income consumers is offered with subsidy policies. These results suggest that the evaluation of public policies to reduce adverse selection can be improved by considering the joint dynamics of health and earnings.

ID529 - The French Colorblind Approach to Discrimination and Inequality

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Abstract

The French color-blind approach to data collection has long been debated. The lack of ethno-racial information in surveys and administrative data has impeded researchers from studying the level of inequality and discrimination against minorities in France. As an alternative to ethno-racial information, the use of factual information such as parents' place of birth has been proposed. In this paper, we discuss the color-blind approach of France and review the evidence of inequality and discrimination based on origins in the country. We then use the Trajectories and Origins 2 survey to address the question of whether collecting information on origins matters and how much information would be missed by exclusively using parents' country of birth. For this scope, we provide a novel index capturing alterity and discuss the extent to which this measure changes our understanding of the level of inequality and discrimination in France. We conclude by providing some recommendations.

ID533 - Automation adoption and reorganization of tasks

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Abstract

This paper studies how adoption of automation technologies affects the internal occupational structure of firms and how it determines labour market trajectories for incumbent workers in adopting firms. Exploiting the lumpy nature of automation investment, adoption events are identified using detailed administrative information on imports. Using a difference-in-differences event study design it is shown that adopting firms reduce the share of workers in routine and manual occupations and increase the share of highly educated workers. A different role of automation emerges for small and large firms, where the latter appear to reduce total employment with adoption, while small ones automate on a growing dynamic path. By focusing on labour market trajectories of incumbent workers, it is shown that separation from adopting firms and non-employment spells after adoption are less likely for employees who were performing non-routine and cognitive tasks. Retraining is used by firms before automation adoption, in particular for production workers in the routine-manual occupational cluster.

ID536 - Systemic Discrimination in Firing

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Abstract

We investigate gender and racial bias in firing decisions. Our study is grounded in two hypotheses: i) firms apply a stricter standard to disadvantaged workers in hiring decisions and are thus less likely to fire disadvantaged workers; ii) hiring and firing are under the purview of different personnel HR at the start and operational managers at the end) who differ in their biases and propensity to hire and fire disadvantaged workers. We evaluate these hypotheses using administrative data from the Netherlands. The Netherlands is a useful venue because many large and small employers must follow wage schedules laid out centrally by the government or collective bargaining agreements between the government and sector representatives, and because these wage schedules vary with age alone. Age-wage increases are orthogonal therefore to other worker characteristics that may be relevant for firing decisions, including their race, gender, or productivity. We leverage the orthogonality of these wage increases to measure the willingness of firms to pay (WTP) for different types of workers as well as their systematic willingness to pay (SWTP) across age cutoffs and minimum wage schedules that change by year and collective bargaining agreements. We identify SWTP distributions across large firms for the purposes of identifying firms with extremely low or high SWTP for disadvantaged workers.

ID539 - Free Textbooks and Females' Long-term Outcomes: Evidence from Turkey

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Abstract

Access to resources significantly influences academic success, particularly for students facing disadvantages. This study, focusing on females, examines the effects of a policy in Turkey that provided free school textbooks to all students. The results indicate that providing free textbooks has a positive impact on the academic attainment of females. This positive impact translates into delayed marriage, a decrease in unwanted pregnancies, and a reduction in overall childbirths among female individuals. The study also shows that the duration of receiving free textbooks impacts the magnitude of these effects, with longer exposure periods yielding more substantial outcomes.

ID541 - The effects of free school meals on student achievements in the Netherlands

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Abstract

The Netherlands is one of the only countries in Europe where no food is provided during lunch breaks at school. In the spring of 2023, the Dutch Ministry of Education, Culture, and Science started the school meal program for schools with a large population of disadvantaged students. Schools with over 30% of disadvantaged students are eligible for free school meals. We use rich register data from all students in primary education, including biannual test scores, from the Netherlands Cohort Study on Education, to evaluate the effect of the free school meals program on student's test scores. By applying a regression discontinuity design, we compare students in schools with a percentage of disadvantaged students just below the threshold (not eligible for the program) with schools that scored just above the threshold and received free school meals. The preliminary results show a marginally significant effect of free school meals on test scores in the short run (a few months after the start of the program); however, if we zoom in on the students from low-income families specifically, we find no significant effects yet.

ID542 - The Economic Costs of Rape

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Abstract

One in four US women have experienced a completed or attempted rape (CDC, 2022). Yet, there is currently no systematic evidence on how sexual violence affects women's economic outcomes. We harness detailed administrative data from Finland to provide new empirical facts on how rape affects the labor market outcomes of victims and their family members. A third of police reports for rape involved victims younger than 21 years old at the time of the assault. We show that the age-25 employment and college completion rates of younger victims are 12.8 p.p and 10 p.p lower respectively than those of other young women with the same (pre-event) GPA and family background. For older victims, we use a matched difference-in-difference design to show that rape has a large and persistent impact on women: victims' employment falls by 7.8 percentage points and their labor market earnings decline 16.5\% relative to observationally equivalent women in the five years following the assault. These results are robust to controlling for a variety of shocks preceding rape that could make it more likely for a woman to be victimized and independently suppress her economic outcomes. We also document important spillovers of these crimes, with the victim's mother and sisters experiencing significant declines in their earnings. Last, we show that higher clearance rates of rape cases by the courts and police mitigate the negative impacts on victims. Together, these results indicate that preventing and addressing sexual violence is a vital economic issue, as well as a moral one.

ID543 - The Impact of Strenuous Working Conditions on Labour Market- and Health Outcomes

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Abstract

Some jobs are more strenuous or less pleasant than others, either because of unfavorable working environments, high physical demand, or irregular working hours. Such job characteristics are highly relevant to a substantial proportion of the workforce. For example, night work alone affects about 15% of workers in Austria. In theory, workers should be compensated for adverse working conditions through higher wages. However, the empirical evidence on the existence of compensating wage differentials is ambiguous when it comes to strenuous work, partly because workers self-select into such working conditions. Moreover, the long-term health consequences of strenuous work have potential hidden costs for workers that are understudied in the literature. The aim of this paper is to assess whether workers are compensated for the short-term disamenities and long-term health effects of strenuous working conditions. To this end, we use rich administrative data from Austria for a period of more than 20 years. This allows us to document selection into different types of strenuous jobs based on detailed individual-specific information. In a second step, we estimate the causal career- and health effects of working in strenuous jobs to reveal the benefits and hidden costs of strenuous careers. We circumvent selection problems into or out of strenuous jobs by exploiting large-scale plant closures. Our preliminary results suggest that workers are compensated for strenuous working conditions with a substantial wage premium of about 17% on average, but also experience significant negative health effects, reflected in about 7% higher health expenditures in the medium term.

ID545 - Small Pictures, Big Biases: The Adverse Effect of an Airbnb Anti-Discrimination Policy

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Abstract

Using scraped data from the Airbnb platform in New York City alongside state-of-the-art Vision Transformers models for image classification, we show that Black hosts have a 7.2 percentage points lower occupancy rate than their White counterparts despite no differences in pricing. For Asian and Hispanic hosts, the difference from Whites is small and mostly insignificant for both occupancy rate and prices. Second, we examine the effect of an anti-discrimination policy implemented by Airbnb in 2018, which reduced the size of profile pictures on the platform. Using difference-in-differences and event studies approaches, we show that the new Airbnb policy increased the Black-White disparity by about 4 percentage points. As a reaction to the negative impact of the new policy, Black hosts start offering more basic amenities for their listings. We argue that a potential mechanism for the increase in Black-White disparity stems from the increasing guests' uncertainty in discerning facial features from the smaller profile pictures, which positively correlate with occupancy rates. As a result, guests focus more on skin color.

ID548 - Early retirement for early starters - A well targeted policy for people with high job demand?

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Abstract

Despite growing demographic pressures a reform in Germany has lowered the full retirement age (FRA) for early starters. In this paper we analyze whether the reform was well targeted. Specifically, we study if the early retirement scheme benefits workers with high job strain or if workers with better jobs and the potential to increase employment are the main beneficiaries of this pathway. For the empirical analysis we use high-quality administrative data from the Federal Employment Agency covering the complete employment biographies of individuals and including information about the job strain at the occupational level. We exploit policy variation induced by the pension reform using two complementary identification strategies: Difference in Differences and Regression Discontinuity Design. The reform reduced average labor market exit age by between six to seven months or three to 3.5 months for each year the FRA was lowered. The effect is stronger for individuals working in demanding occupations and for individuals with higher incomes. Disentangling job strain into physical and psychosocial job strain does not reveal different effects between both measures of job demand.

ID549 - Talent is Everywhere, Opportunity is Not: Online RoleModel Mentoring and Students' Aspirations

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Abstract

This study explores whether it is possible to affect children's aspirations and ambitions through a classroom-based intervention. We design and implement ORME, an Online Role-model Mentoring program, which consists of exposing children to online meetings with a group of role models. We evaluate ORME with a Randomized Controlled Trial targeting 7th-grade students (12-13 years old) in Campania, an Italian region historically plagued by stagnating economic conditions, the presence of organized crime, and a generalized lack of trust in institutions. One year after the intervention, children exposed to ORME are 8.3 and 9.6 percentage points more likely to enroll in academic and top-tier tracks, respectively. The potential mechanism of this effect is through an increase in aspirations, self-efficacy, and self-reported effort.

ID550 - Updating about Yourself by Learning about the Market: The Dynamics of Beliefs and Expectations in Job Search

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Abstract

This study documents how job seekers update perceived job-finding prospects by unemployment duration and by learning about aggregate unemployment. We find that job seekers perceive an 18% decline in their job-finding probability for each additional month of unemployment, but perceive a higher job-finding probability when the aggregate unemployment rate is unexpectedly low. We develop a job search model with learning and updating to quantify the impact of perceived aggregate unemployment on subjective job-finding probabilities, revealing an overreaction to news about aggregate conditions. These beliefs can potentially offset a non-trivial part of the negative consequences of moral hazard in job search.

ID551 - The causal effect of parenting style on early child development

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Abstract

This paper presents causal evidence on the impact of parenting practices on early child development. We exploit exogenous changes in nurturing care induced by a parent training intervention to estimate the impact of nurturing parenting practices on child outcomes. We find a large and significant impact measured at age two; in contrast, at age four nurturing care has only a modest, and imprecisely estimated, impact on child outcomes. This is despite the fact that the intervention induced substantial changes in parenting practices at both ages. The differential relationship between child development and nurturing care at ages two and four explains the fade-out in treatment effects for the intervention as a whole: although parents continued to respond, their response no longer had the intended effect on child outcomes.

ID558 - Minimum Wages and Inter-generational Inequality

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Abstract

Can equality-enhancing wage regulations initiate a virtuous cycle of social mobility? We study the effect of the 1966 Fair Labor Standards Act on the completed education and labor market outcomes of children whose parents worked in industries newly covered by mandated minimum wages. Exploiting variation in exposure to parental minimum wages by parental industry and child age cohort, we find that minimum wages reduced racial inequality in completed education and in the skill content of jobs, but had a statistically insignificant effect on inter-generational wage inequality. Results are consistent across linear two-way fixed effects models and flexible machine-learning approaches.

ID559 - Cultural Gender Norms and Occupational Choice

Natalie Irmert

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Abstract

Over the last decades, many western economies have experienced a decline in the employment share of traditionally male-dominated jobs, such as manufacturing, whereas traditionally female-dominated jobs are among the fastest growing occupations. Yet, men seem reluctant to enter such fields. This paper investigates whether cultural gender norms, that is a society's perception of what is appropriate work for men and women, contribute to persistent gender-stereotypical occupational choice. Therefore, I propose a novel empirical strategy that builds on the epidemiological approach and ask whether second-generation immigrant men (women) are less likely to work in an occupation that is perceived as female (male)-typical work in their country of ancestry. I implement the model using both large-scale international survey data and high-quality administrative records. I find robust evidence that men, but not women, adhere to occupation-specific cultural gender norms: men are less likely to work in an occupation that is more female dominated in their country of origin, while there is no such effect for women.

ID561 - The Deadly Consequences of Skilled Labor Scarcity: Evidence from German Hospitals

Oliver Schlenker

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Abstract

Labor scarcity is a key challenge across many countries and, due to societal aging, especially pronounced for nurses. Leveraging a strong and persistent appreciation of the Swiss franc, this paper examines how German nurses react to cross-country differences in wages. Comparing the affected German border region to similar control counties further inland using a difference-in-differences design, I find that German border hospitals face a reduction of 22% of their nursing staff. This reduction is entirely driven by skilled nurses, who were in high demand in Switzerland. As German hospitals have little leeway in adapting by lowering the output or substituting input, I find that nurse shortages result in lower care intensity, increased patient mortality, and decreased life expectancy.

ID563 - Child benefits and the well-being of new families

Jonas Cuzulan Hirani¹, Rune Vammen Lesner¹, Hans Henrik Sievertsen^{1,2}, Miriam Wüst³

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Abstract

We study the consequences of a 635EUR reduction in the Danish unconditional child benefit for all new families during the first quarter of the child's life. We use a RDD around quarterly cutoffs that govern the timing of benefit eligibility. Very preliminary results indicate that forgoing the first quarterly benefit in the short run causes higher first-year paternal labor supply, potentially reduced child investments, and reduced maternal mental health, but only in low-income families. We find no effects in high-income families. These findings suggest that, in the short run, only constrained families respond to lower universal transfers, with implications for family well-being and child development. These findings contribute to understanding the established long-run relationships between early-life income and child outcomes and to establishing relevant mechanisms, that for now are poorly understood (among them an income and a parental stress channel).

ID567 - The untold story of internal migration in Germany: Life-cycle patterns, developments, and the role of education

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Abstract

This paper examines internal migration from a lifetime perspective using unique data on detailed residential biographies of individuals born in Germany between 1944 and 1986. We first describe life-cycle patterns of internal mobility and potential differences across space, time, and socio-demographic groups. We find substantial differences across the life course, with major location changes around important educational decisions and striking differences across groups, especially by educational attainment. We then investigate causality in the substantial education-mobility gradient. For identification, we exploit two policy-induced sources of variation, each shifting towards better education at a different margin of the ability distribution. Using the difference-in-differences and regression discontinuity designs, we find no effect of these policies on internal mobility.

ID569 - The Economics of Labor & Patients' Health Outcomes: Evidence from Childbirth in Germany

Ilka Gerhardt

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Abstract

This paper provides novel evidence on the causal effect of non-medically indicated induction on patients' health. The analysis is based on data for Germany, where profit-oriented reimbursement schemes and acute staff shortages imply strong incentives for birth interventions, leading to induced labor being twice as common in 2022 compared to 1985. Using two years of nationwide comprehensive hospital records, the empirical design allows identifying non-random and interdependent assignment of inductions and surgical interventions. The identification exploits intervention preferences of physicians who are as good as randomly allocated to healthy first-time mothers. The results reveal evidence for increased prevalence of perineal tearing and substantially impaired neonatal fitness as the result of non-indicated birth interventions.

ID571 - Long Run Impacts of Child Benefits

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Abstract

We show that cash transfers to families with teenagers significantly improved economic self-sufficiency in adulthood. In 2000, the Norwegian government raised the age limit for child benefit from 16 to 18. Depending on their birth cohort and age gap, this reform also affected economic resources available to their younger siblings. Using linked register data, we implement a difference-in-differences approach leveraging this variation to estimate effects on outcomes up to age 30. We estimate significant reductions in cash welfare receipt, increased educational attainment, increased labor earnings, as well as reductions in juvenile crime. Our estimates imply that the program is cost-effective.

ID572 - Daylight Time, Circadian Rhythms, and Knowledge Worker Productivity: Insights from GitHub Data

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³University of Vienna, Vienna, Austria

Abstract

We investigate the influence of daylight time and circadian rhythms on knowledge worker productivity. Based on data on daily activities of software developers from GitHub, a prominent software repository, we show that developers postpone their tasks in response to later sunrises and experience disruptions in productivity due to daylight saving time (DST) changes. These effects vary based on a worker's chronotype, their inherent circadian rhythm, which determines their peak productivity times. We then examine how discrepancies in work schedules among co-workers in international teams, termed as 'social jetlag,' influence team productivity. Developers adjust their activity time towards the direction of their collaborators, with productivity consequences depending on chronotype and direction of the time discrepancy. Our results add to the understanding of the interplay between natural light cycles, circadian rhythms, and productivity, underscoring the need for more adaptive and flexible work environments.

ID573 - The Causal Effect of Higher Education on Earnings and Health

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Abstract

Higher education graduates tend to have higher earnings and better health compared to lower educated individuals. This difference in outcomes can be due to a causal effect of completing higher education, but it can also be due to differences in (un)observed characteristics between higher education graduates and nongraduates (selection). In this paper we use a partial identification approach to disentangle the two components. We find informative bounds on the causal effects, that show that completing higher education substantially increases earnings and decreases the probability of having cardiovascular disorders and diabetes. We further show that a substantial part of the observed difference in mean outcomes is attributable to selection bias.

ID576 - Disentangling the Greening of the Labour Market: The Role of Changing Occupations and Worker Flows

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Abstract

Using a text-mining approach applied to task descriptions of occupations together with worker-level administrative data, we explore the growth in the greenness of employment which amounted to 35% between 2012 and 2022. We first demonstrate that the general greening of occupations (“within-effect”) accounts for two thirds of the overall greening of employment, whereas shifting occupational employment shares (“between-effect”) account for the remainder. Second, we show which occupations contribute most to the within-effect. Third, we provide evidence which worker flows are mainly responsible for the between-effect, and which socio-demographic groups drive these labour-market transitions.

ID578 - The only child

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Abstract

This paper examines how only children fare in school using fertility treatment success as natural experiment. With administrative data from Denmark, we first show that in vitro fertilization (IVF) treatments provide ample exogenous variation in the likelihood to have siblings. With IVF treatment success as legitimate instrumental variable (IV), we then estimate the causal effect of being the only child on school performance. Our results indicate that, when it comes to the school outcomes we measure, there is little value in having siblings; that is, first-born children with and without siblings (for exogenous reasons) do equally well when it comes to test scores, social skills, and school wellbeing.

Note: I have presented a very preliminary version at ESPE Calabria. For the current version, we have been able to match survey data with information on personality traits (including extraversion, conscientiousness, and emotional stability) and school wellbeing to existing administrative records, which allows us to examine both the cognitive and non-cognitive development of children. Apart from introducing several methodological innovations to our identification design, our focus on the non-cognitive development of (only) children is the main novelty of the current paper.

ID580 - Health Costs of a "Healthy Democracy": The Impact of Peaceful Political Protests on Healthcare Utilization

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Abstract

Peaceful protests are one of the most common and effective forms of political action worldwide. But they may have negative spillovers on health-seeking behaviour. Using an instrumental variable approach that leverages variations in national sporting events and combining data on politically disruptive events from the Armed Conflict Location & Event Data (ACLED) project with information on healthcare utilization from the Bangladesh Demographic and Health Surveys (DHS), we show that peaceful protests reduce healthcare utilization among mothers with young children. Prenatal and postnatal care, vaccination rates, the likelihood of visiting a hospital facility if a child is unwell, and hospital deliveries all decrease in response to protests, while home deliveries increase. The effect is stronger for more elastic demands, like facility visits for minor illnesses and timely vaccinations. Security concerns and traffic congestion, which increase the time and costs of accessing health facilities, appear to be two potential mechanisms. The findings are not a criticism of peaceful protests, which we consider both an essential tenet and a by-product of a strong democracy, but instead, seek to draw attention to an often-ignored cost associated with it.

ID581 - Skill loss during parental leave and its role for gender disparities in earnings

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Abstract

This study provides a missing puzzle piece for understanding the persistent gender differences in earnings. Prior research has shown that the longer child-related career interruptions of mothers are related to their lower income, but the mechanisms behind this link are still unclear. One explanation could be that mothers lose work-related skills during extended parental leave; however, empirical evidence for this link is missing. We aim at filling this research gap by investigating whether human capital depreciation during parental leave widens the gender disparities in earnings. The analysis is based on a longitudinal dataset for German adults, which matches administrative data on income and labour market histories with test scores on work-related skills. It allows us to investigate tested competencies of parents before and after the birth of their child, and before and after they go on parental leave, using panel data regression analysis. Our sample consists of 9,796 adults aged 20 to 45 between 2010 and 2022. Preliminary results suggest that the birth of a child decreases the work-related skills of mothers, but not of fathers; however, effects sizes are small. We find no heterogeneities by birth rank, the number of births, or the skill domain. In future analyses, we will differentiate based on parental leave duration and subsequent income. The findings will offer important insights for shaping parental leave policies and tackling skilled labour shortages.

ID582 - Shall I try it again or maybe later? Number and schedule of exam sessions and university students' outcomes

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Abstract

The existing literature has mostly focused on the individual, family, and institutional determinants of student performance and dropout, paying little attention to the organization of exams. This study addresses this gap by examining the impact of a policy implemented at one of Italy's largest universities, which reduced the number of exam attempts from six to three. Using a difference-in-differences design, we compare the academic outcomes of students enrolled under the new system with those under the old one. Leveraging rich administrative student records, we show that the reform improved students' first-year outcomes by reducing the probability of dropout and increasing the number of exams passed and credits earned. Furthermore, our findings reveal that only a tiny part of these improvements can be attributed to the increase in the average quality of incoming students.

ID585 - Empowered but burdened? Welfare impacts of small education cash transfers in Bangladesh

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Abstract

Existing evidence on the effectiveness of conditional transfers leaves a number of open questions. In this study, we utilize the changes in the coverage of Bangladesh's Primary Education Stipend Program (PESP), a conditional small transfer to the mothers of eligible children, to investigate three of these open questions using longitudinal data from the Bangladesh Integrated Household Survey. First, we examine if a transfer as small as PESP, which is unlikely to make large distortions in decisions, can have a positive impact on household welfare. We find that the transfers improved education and health outcomes for the children and increased households' protein consumption. Second, motivated by the findings around the intra-household disparity in the effect of transfers, we focus on welfare outcomes for women alone. We find that the transfers improve female minor asset holdings, employment, and decision-making power, and reduce verbal abuse from intimate partners, countering narratives that express concern over increases in intimate partner violence. At the same time, we find an increase in domestic workload for women, reducing their measures of life satisfaction. Third, we compare the effect of receiving a transfer to that of losing the stipend. While largely symmetric, some effects of receiving the transfers on female empowerment remain when they no longer receive the stipend. Our findings affirm the potential for positive impacts even with small cash transfers but highlight the increased burden of targeting women as transfer recipients.

ID586 - Home Exams, Peers, and College Grades in Unprecedented Times

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Abstract

Home exams, online teaching, and limited social networking are all factors associated with the COVID-19 pandemic. University students felt the intense reverberations stemming from the pandemic with substantial impact on their schooling. We examine the grades of nearly 18,000 bachelor's students from all departments at the University of Iceland, spanning nine semesters before, during, and after the COVID-19 pandemic. The purpose of this study is to investigate the impact of the pandemic and the associated take-home exams on university grades with a focus on the role of social networks. Our findings indicate that the pandemic significantly affected academic performance in both on-site and take-home exams and that having a large social network was positively correlated with performance, especially during pandemic-affected semesters. However, the beneficial effect of social networks did not provide additional benefits on take-home exams beyond the benefits on on-site exams. These results highlight the importance of students' social networks for academic performance. These benefits do not appear to stem from collaborative efforts between students on take-home exams.

ID587 - Employer Responses to Raising the Retirement Age: Spillovers on Coworkers and External Hiring

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Abstract

Human capital specificity of establishments and search frictions may lead to costly worker turnover and career advancements. This paper quantifies the establishment adjustment costs upon older workforce retention using the reform in Germany that scrapped the opportunities to retire before the age 63. Using the exogenous cohort cutoffs for identification and administrative records of Germany as a data source, I show that the reform led to a significant increase in employment and retention of affected workers, and find that there are negative effects on promotions, especially of middle-aged women. These adjustment costs mask substantial heterogeneity across the availability of internal and external substitutes, showing that the longer planning horizon specific to this reform does not eliminate the adjustment costs for establishments because of the frictions associated with worker turnover.

ID592 - The Long-Lasting Effects of a Canadian Based Child-Care Policy on the Labour Supply of Mothers with Pre-Schoolers: Common Trends, Heterogeneity, and Synthetic Methods.

Philip Merrigan

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Abstract

In 1997, the Government of the Province of Québec in Canada implemented a child care policy that reduced by 50%, on average, the price of full-time child care for children less than 5 years of age. A large number of papers, cited in total over 3000 times estimated the impact of the policy on labour supply and child outcomes. A number of them show that the policy had a strong impact on the labour supply of mothers with pre-schoolers. Certain issues concerning these papers remain open. This paper addresses three of them, heterogeneity in the effects of the policy, the common trend assumption and the long-lasting nature of the effects of the policy. After a thorough graphic and econometric analysis of the common trend assumption used in the previous research to identify the policy effects, we conclude that it is very credible. We then estimate the effects of the policy until 2020 with two recently published methods, the first, Synthetic Difference in Differences, Arkhangelsky et al. (2021), dealing with choice of the control group, the second, a semi-parametric Difference in Differences approach, Callaway and Sant'Anna (2021), dealing with heterogeneity. We find that the policy effects are large, statistically significant and long-lasting.

ID594 - Impacts of Entitlement Reductions on Return to Work and Subsequent Health

Peter Thingholm, Lars Skipper, Jonas Maibom

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Abstract

In this paper we estimate the effect of reducing entitlements in short term disability on subsequent labor market and health outcomes. Using high quality Danish administrative data and a reform of the Danish short term disability system we document that exposing individuals to the threat of lower entitlements leads to a speedier exit from short term disability, increases the likelihood that they return to work, and makes it more likely that the individuals return to the same employer that they were sicklisted from. We find no effects on health care utilization on individuals exposed to the reform.

ID595 - Gender job polarisation

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Abstract

Job polarization describes the shift towards higher and lower-paid jobs, reducing mid-wage employment. This phenomenon, while broadly studied, impacts men and women differently due to job segregation. This paper investigates these gender-specific occupational changes, finding polarization among women but not men. It challenges the Routine Bias Technological Change (RBTC) theory, which explains middle-wage job declines—more pronounced for men—but fails to address the extremes in women's employment. Instead, structural shifts and marketization explain women's employment patterns. Opportunities in the market and education incentivize women's workforce participation, decreasing domestic labor. Additionally, higher consumption among top-earning women drives service demand.

ID596 - The Persistence of Employment Gaps in Couples: To what extent do relative female-to-male wage opportunities matter?

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Abstract

Gender gaps in employment have narrowed but remain substantial, especially within couples. When I proxy potential earnings through demand-driven wage changes in job tasks within industries and using German administrative data, I show that a rising relative female-to-male potential wage increases work hours of female partners, but at a diminishing rate. Men, on the other hand, reduce their work hours, but only at low levels of the relative wage. In sum, this means that the within-couple gap in work hours widens significantly as the earnings prospects of women relative to men improve. I then discuss potential drivers for these puzzling results and focus on economic incentives of Becker's household model, comparative advantages and gender identity norms.

ID601 - From Barracks to Books: The Educational Shift of Labor Market Entrants After Military Base Closures

David Sandberg

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Abstract

This study analyses how labor market entrants respond to a sudden closure of a large local employer. The focus is on how the military base closures taking place in rural parts of Sweden between 1998 and 2005 affected labor market outcomes and educational decisions among 18-year-olds living nearby. Using a triple-difference model on register data, the 18-year-olds are compared with older cohorts from the same hometown but also with the same cohorts from unaffected communities. The findings show only a marginal shift of moving away from the affected communities and no long-term negative effects on income and employment rates. Instead, young adults react by enrolling in tertiary education. This is driven by low-ability men, rooted in their hometown, who take short-spell degrees and single courses at nearby colleges and universities. Women pick up tertiary education earlier after a closure but it does not lead to long-term increases in educational attainment.

ID603 - Closing the Early Childhood Skills Gap for Minorities: Evidence from Parental Investments and Preschool Attendance in Concentrated Roma Communities in Bulgaria

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³Utrecht University, Utrecht, Netherlands. ⁴University of Duke, Duke, USA

Abstract

We estimate the relative contributions of preschool and parents to child development in disadvantaged communities in Bulgaria. Using a randomized control trial, we show that increased preschool attendance led to lower investments in parent engagement activities and lower child development. We estimate a child development production function, which reveals that parental investments and preschool attendance both contribute positively to child development but the contribution of parents is at least as large as the contribution of preschool, even for low-educated minority parents. These findings should encourage governments to recognize the strong contribution of parents and favor combinations that encourage preschool participation and parental stimulation at home, also when parents are extremely disadvantaged.

ID605 - How do parents affect the college education choice of their children?

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Abstract

Using unique survey data that links expectations of close to 2,000 children and their parents, we explore the role of parents in the transmission of beliefs and preferences for college education, and the direct influence of parents in the decision-making process of their children. We provide new evidence for the intergenerational transmission of beliefs by showing strong positive correlations between children and their parents for a wide set of benefits and costs of college education. To understand the decision-making process, we set up a subjective belief framework that incorporates joint-decision making of children and parents, and estimate the household preferences. We find that parents have a strong direct influence on the college decision. Differences in beliefs between non-college-educated parents and college-educated parents explain 19% of the gap in college enrolment of their children and differences in parents' preferences explain a further 25%. Parents without college education put more emphasis on enjoying the program and achieving good grades, while college-educated parents put more emphasis on finishing the degree. Influencing the beliefs and preferences of parents therefore can be a meaningful policy in closing the college-going gap.

ID606 - Economic Stimulus from Public Health Programs: Externalities from Mass AIDS Treatment Provision in South Africa

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Abstract

Estimates of the return on investment in government programs are often based on an assumption that benefits accrue only to the intended beneficiaries. However, community members are likely to benefit indirectly. This study therefore evaluates the direct and indirect impact of the provision of mass AIDS treatment on labor market outcomes in South Africa, using biomarker data to separately identify the impact by HIV status.

We used rich data from a demographic surveillance site in rural South Africa with a 99% survey response rate. We leveraged differences in access to antiretroviral therapy (ART) that are uncorrelated with unobservables, and we used a set of rigorous causal inference methods, including machine learning (lasso), to estimate a plausibly causal impact.

As ART access scaled up between 2004 and 2011, employment increased by 8.5 percentage points for HIV-infected individuals who were within 2 km from the nearest ART clinic compared to those more than 5 km away. We also found sizable increases of 6.3 percentage points among HIV-uninfected individuals who did not have HIV-infected household members -- a 22 percent gain in employment. In contrast, labor force participation decreased over this period, which suggests that labor demand plays an important role in driving the effects.

Our results demonstrate that the economic benefits of ART are broadly distributed, operate via channels outside the household and have properties of a public good. Investments in health-related human capital may have important stimulus effects on local economies that should be considered alongside conventional economic policy.

ID607 - Stormborn: Evaluating the Impact of Facility-Based Delivery on Health and Economic Outcomes Using a Machine Learning Approach

Zoe McLaren

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Abstract

Encouraging women to give birth in health facilities rather than at home remains a key policy objective in low- and middle-income countries. However, there is little unconfounded evidence on whether it improves child outcomes. This paper uses a rigorous instrumental variables approach with a machine learning component to examine the impact of facility-based delivery on child outcomes, including sibling spillovers.

My identification strategy uses exogenous weather shocks (i.e., rain and high temperatures) on the day of birth as instruments for facility-based delivery since bad weather hinders travel to health facilities. I use GPS coordinates to link birth data from the Demographic and Health Surveys to high-resolution and high-frequency weather data from the ERA5-Land database. I use three machine learning methods to select instruments from a set of 400 potential instruments.

Results from the instrumental variables estimation show that facility-based delivery is statistically significantly associated with an increase in under-five survival, height-for-age percentile, weight-for-age percentile, the likelihood of receiving any vaccinations and a decrease in the subsequent birth interval relative to children who were delivered at home. I find a large positive spillover effect of having an elder sibling deliver in a health facility on the likelihood of vaccination.

The local average treatment effect estimate from this novel instrumental variables approach identifies large overall benefits of facility-based delivery for children of women who are dissuaded from traveling to a health facility by relatively small barriers. There is therefore a need for better interventions to encourage facility-based delivery for this group.

ID610 - The Stability Effect of Elected Women: Gender or Seniority?

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Abstract

By relying on a policy aimed at reducing the gender gap among members of local councils in Italy, we show that a larger share of women causes more government stability. This effect is mainly driven by first-time elected women, who have a lower probability of getting reelected when compared to councillors elected in previous races, too. It holds when controlling for council fixed effect, councillor characteristics and political fragmentation. On average, the stability effect implies two year longer duration of a government that otherwise would be unseated. These findings are more consistent with a story of economic incentives shaping voting behaviour rather than one related to the peculiar behaviour of women in elected offices.

ID611 - Effects of an Unconditional Cash Transfer on Maternal Employment

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Abstract

This paper presents novel evidence on the effects of an unconditional cash transfer on maternal labour market outcomes. In 2018 the German state of Bavaria introduced the family allowance, an unconditional payment to families with children under three. Using German administrative data in a difference-in-differences design, I show that the payment negatively affects wages and employment. A dynamic analysis reveals that the effects start to occur 12 months after birth, increase to a negative employment effect of 1.5 percentage points and flatten out after eligibility ends due to children's age. Additionally, I show that, particularly for mothers living in counties with high childcare fees and those with low pre-birth income and education levels, the negative effects are more pronounced and do not disappear with losing eligibility.

ID612 - Back to the Roots: the Effect of Culture on the Gender Gap in STEM

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Abstract

This paper explores the impact of a new mechanism in reinforcing gender norms: the influence of cultural norms and gender attitudes on educational decisions, especially in STEM fields. To disentangle the effect of norms from institutions, we employ the epidemiological methodology: we use a cohort of second-generation immigrants in France and compare their higher education choices to the share of women in STEM in the country of origin of their parents. We draw upon the extensive TéO survey, which offers a representative sample enriched with essential immigration-related variables. Our findings show that men originating from countries with progressive gender norms in STEM exhibit a greater likelihood to pursue STEM, whereas the effect for women reverses. We discuss the implications of these findings in the context of the gender equality paradox theory.

ID613 - Women in Top Academic Positions: Is There a Trickle-down Effect?

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Abstract

We study how the promotion of a female professor affects future hiring decisions and PhD students in the department. We exploit a large-scale natural experiment which generates exogenous variation across Spanish university departments in promotions to Associate and Full Professor positions. Between 2003 to 2007, the composition of committees in national qualification exams was randomized and applicants were significantly more likely to be promoted if, by luck of the draw, they were assessed by a committee including a strong connection such as a colleague, a co-author or a former advisor. Using information from 3,700 departments in all academic disciplines and around 3,000 promotions, we find that the (exogenous) promotion of women to Associate or Full Professor does not lead to an increase in the number of women hired or promoted in the department within the following ten years or to in the share of female PhD students. However, a larger presence of female faculty affects enrolled PhD students, who exhibit a strong preference for same-sex advisors and gender segregation in research interests.

ID614 - Let's roll back! The challenging task of regulating temporary contracts

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Abstract

In this paper, we evaluate the impact of a reform introduced in Italy in 2018 (Decreto Dignità), which increased the rigidity of employment protection legislation (EPL) of temporary contracts, rolling back previous policies, to reduce job instability. We use longitudinal labour force data from 2016 to 2019 and adopt a time-series technique within a Rubin Casual Model (RCM) framework to estimate the causal effect of the reform. We find that the reform was successful in reducing persistence into temporary employment and increasing the flow from temporary to permanent employment, in particular among women and young workers in the North of Italy, with significant effects on the stocks of permanent employment (+), temporary employment (-) and unemployment (-). However, this positive outcome came at the cost of higher persistence into inactivity, lower outflows from unemployment to temporary employment and higher outflows from unemployment to inactivity among males and low-educated workers.

ID615 - Parental Gender Stereotypes and Student Wellbeing in China

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Abstract

A prominent gender stereotype claims that "boys are better at learning mathematics than girls". Confronted with such a parental attitude, how does this affect the wellbeing of 11 - 18 years old students in Chinese middle schools? While wellbeing has been often shown to be not much gender diverse, the intergenerational consequences of such stereotypes are not well studied. Expecting too much from boys and too little from girls might damage self-esteem among school kids. Using large survey data covering districts all over China reveals that one quarter of parents agree with the math stereotype. It is shown that this has strong detrimental consequences for offspring wellbeing. Students are strongly more depressed, feeling blue, unhappy, not enjoying life and sad with no male-female differences while parental education does not matter for this transfer. Intensive robustness tests confirm the analysis. Moderating such effects which is in line with societal objectives in many countries does not only support gender equality but also strengthen mental health of children.

ID617 - Minimum Legal Drinking Age and Academic Performance: Quasi-experimental Evidence from Spain

Manuel Bagues, Carmen VILLA LLERA

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Abstract

Over the past two decades, many European countries have raised the minimum legal drinking age (MLDA) from 16 to 18 years. In this study, we present novel evidence regarding the impact of this policy on educational performance by leveraging the differential timing of MLDA changes across Spanish regions and information from 275,000 students between 2002 and 2021. The reform led to an 8% to 20% reduction in the amount of alcohol consumed by adolescents aged 14-17. Notably, there was no significant impact on the use of other substances, or the frequency of leisure habits like video games or internet usage. The MLDA increase resulted in an improvement of 4% standard deviations in performance in PISA exams.

ID620 - When the sun goes down: Effects of sunset time on adolescent sleep, mental health and education

Lisa Voois

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Abstract

Short sleep duration is associated with depressive symptoms and lower cognitive performance in adolescents. Causal evidence of effects of chronic sleep deprivation, however, is lacking. I estimate effects of long-term variation in sunset time across the United States on the sleep duration of adolescents and, subsequently, on the risk of depression and on educational attainment by young adulthood. I find that adolescents exposed to later sunset times go to bed later, sleep less, and spend more time on sedentary activities. They are more likely to have symptoms of depression in adolescence and to be diagnosed with that condition by young adulthood. While they are not less likely to graduate from high school or to attend college, they are less likely to graduate from college. The estimated effects are large. Exposure to a 15-minute (1 standard deviation) delay in sunset time persistently during adolescence is estimated to reduce sleep duration by 5 minutes each weeknight, increase the probability of being diagnosed with depression by 2 percentage points, and reduce the probability of being a college graduate by 3.5 percentage points. These findings are consistent with persistent sleep deprivation in adolescence causing adverse effects on mental health and education.

ID621 - Racial Peer Effects at Work: Evidence from Worker Deaths in Brazil

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Abstract

We study the impact of working with same-race coworkers on individuals' retention at firms. Using administrative employer-employee data from Brazil, we exploit unexpected deaths of workers from different race groups as exogenous shocks to the peer group composition. We find that a decrease in the non-white share of coworkers leads to lower levels of retention among non-white workers but does not affect the retention of white workers. The effects are driven by quits rather than layoffs, are highly heterogeneous across occupation characteristics, and interact with the gender composition of the peer group. Our findings highlight how peer dynamics contribute to differences in the careers of non-white and white employees.

ID624 - Distribution, Inequality and Poverty in Colombia: An Assessment of the Contribution of the Minimum Wage

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Abstract

In the context of a high Minimum Wage (MW) relative to labor income, we seek to determine whether increases in MW relative to median labor income (hereinafter referred to as “MW relative to median”) affect labor income distribution. Specifically, we study the unconditional quantiles to establish whether there are differential effects for low quantiles, for those closer to MW, and for higher quantiles. We perform this analysis for different occupational groups. We also assess the effects of MW relative to median on labor income inequality, measured by its Gini coefficient, and on monetary poverty prevalence. We find that increases in MW raises labor income quantile values for most occupational groups, except for the 10th quantile of those distributions. For this quantile, the effects are mostly not significant and even negative for some occupational groups. With respect to household income per-capita, we find that increasing MW raises all income quantiles, except for the lowest 10% of income. The effect for the 10th quantile is negative. Consistent with those results, we find that increasing MW when it is high relative to median income increases inequality measured by the Gini coefficient as well as monetary poverty prevalence. We use unconditional quantile regressions for our analysis. We use the microdata of a pooled sample of household surveys in Colombia from 2008 to 2019.

ID625 - School Tracking and Geographic Mobility: Evidence from Finland

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³LMU Munich, Munich, Germany. ⁴ifo Institute, Munich, Germany

Abstract

There is wide cross-country variation in the relative importance of general versus vocational training at the secondary level of education. De-tracking reforms, which were widely implemented across Europe in the twentieth century, have substantially changed the type of skills taught in schools within country. In practice, such reforms harmonize the curriculum and offer more general training to students who would have otherwise ended up in a vocational track. We focus on the Finnish 1970s comprehensive school reform, which postponed the age of tracking from 10/11 to 15/16. Using the staggered implementation of the reform across Finnish regions, we investigate its effect on internal and international mobility in a difference-in-differences framework. Administrative panel data allow us to estimate medium- to long-term effects. Results show that the reform increases internal migration for men and international migration for women.

ID626 - Behavioral Effects of Becoming a Father: Separating Incapacitation from Identity

Lars Højsgaard Andersen¹, Peter Fallesen^{1,2}, Miriam Gensowski^{1,3,4}, Mikkeline Munk Nielsen¹

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Abstract

Fatherhood comes with several "premia." The arrival of a first child has been described as a turning point where men reduce risky behavior. But although leading theories ascribe this change to a fundamental reformation of men's identity, the reduction in risky behavior could also arise from incapacitation, such as time constraints from caring for a newborn. We use granular administrative data on all men in birth cohorts 1965-2000 in Denmark and strategically choose outcomes to tease apart the importance of the identity change and incapacitation mechanisms for men's behavior as they transition into fatherhood for the first time. We find support for both mechanisms from stacked difference-in-differences models on time-stamped measures of traffic offenses, violence in the nightlife, and hospitalizations for exercise-related accidents. We supplement this with findings on dangerous work environments as a measure of risk-aversion.

ID631 - Can A New Name Open Closed Doors? Foreign-Sounding Names and Immigrant Earnings

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³University of Oslo, Oslo, Norway

Abstract

We investigate how changing from a foreign sounding to a more typically Norwegian name affects the labor market outcomes of immigrants and the children of immigrants. We use a novel name and surname dataset, covering the whole population of Norway, which allows us to calculate the Ethnic Name Index (ENI) and observe when individuals pursue a name assimilation strategy. We exploit the timing of name changes in a difference-in-differences, event time approach, and follow individuals who have changed their names four years before and five years after the event, with individuals who changed their names later as the control group. We find that name assimilation leads to a significant increase (around 33%) in earnings for migrants outside of Western Europe and North America. Most of this increase can be explained by transitions from informal low paying jobs to better paying stable jobs. We do not find any effects on earnings for those who remain working in the same establishment around the time of name assimilation. Our findings are robust to various TWFE models accounting for staggered adoption.

ID635 - Peer Effects in Financial Decisions: Evidence from Dutch Administrative Data

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Abstract

We study whether, to what extent, and how families' financial decisions are affected by their peers, in particular by their (adult) siblings and by their coworkers. We provide causal evidence of peer effects in financial decisions, making use of Dutch administrative data and an IV strategy with partially overlapping peer groups. We find that positive asset market experiences of siblings, as well as coworkers, generate positive spillover effects in terms of first-time investments in risky assets. These effects are primarily driven by the siblings and the coworkers of the male partner. Results are consistent with information being an important underlying mechanism.

ID639 - Does Hospital Leadership Matter? Evidence from the Hospital Readmissions Reduction Program

Hanna Glenn

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Abstract

Understanding the objectives that underlie firm behavior when the firm is not classically for-profit is a challenging task. An industry where this is particularly relevant is for nonprofit hospitals, which make up the majority of hospitals in the US, yet there is no consensus on what drives their behavior. What has not been considered is how differential leadership teams even within nonprofits could dictate behavior. In this paper, I use a novel data set on nonprofit hospital executives in the US from 2009-2015 to investigate whether having clinical experience on a hospital executive team affects hospital behavior. In particular, I leverage the Hospital Readmissions Reduction Program of 2012 as a shock to similar quality hospitals, and estimate the difference in response from hospitals with and without clinical experience. I find that while all penalized hospitals decreased readmissions after the shock, non-clinical executive team hospital decreased readmissions at a faster rate than those with a clinical executive team. The difference equates to approximately 15 additional readmissions for clinical team hospitals. I find no differential effect of clinical executive teams on mortality rates.

ID641 - The impact of childcare on maternal employment

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Abstract

This paper examines the effect of childcare availability on maternal employment in Hungary – where the labour force participation of women with young children is very low - based on a 10% sample from 2016 (the Micro-census). We exploit the exogenous variation in access to childcare due to informal admission practices based on the date of birth to identify the effect of childcare availability on maternal employment. Furthermore, we can decompose this effect estimating both the effect of childcare availability on childcare attendance, and the subsequent effect of childcare attendance on maternal employment. We find that, on average, expanding the coverage of nurseries to the same level as kindergartens would lead to around 7.3 percentage points higher maternal employment, an around 25% higher employment rate compared to the baseline of mothers with a child aged 2-2.5 years. We show that enrolment would increase by 17.7 percentage points due to the higher coverage, close to 40% compared to the baseline; while a child's enrolment would increase maternal employment probability by around 41 percentage points, around two-thirds of the employment rate of mothers. We also investigate the heterogeneities of the effect along demographic characteristics using causal forests. We find that in 2016 the childcare-availability-effect is particularly pronounced for women with (presumably) finished fertility and for women who live in municipalities without nurseries.

ID642 - Are Self-Reported Fertility Preferences Biased? Evidence from Indirect Elicitation Methods

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Abstract

Desired fertility measures are routinely collected and used by researchers and policy makers, but their self-reported nature raises the possibility of reporting bias. Widely used measures focusing on desired future fertility do not suffer from ex-post rationalization but in this paper we test whether they suffer from sensitivity biases. We compare responses to direct survey questions with indirect questions offering a varying, randomized, degree of confidentiality to respondents in a socioeconomically diverse sample of Nigerian women (N = 6,252). We find that women report higher fertility preferences when asked indirectly, but only when their responses afford them complete confidentiality. Our results suggest that there may be fewer unintended pregnancies than currently thought, and that the effectiveness of policy targeting may be weakened by the bias we uncover. We conclude with suggestions for future work on how to mitigate the bias.

ID644 - Let's Make it to Pre-University Track: The Role of Teacher Advice

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Abstract

This paper examines how a teacher's recommendation for the secondary school track affects students' efforts on the standardized end-of-primary school test. In the Netherlands, before 2014, students' performance on the end-of-primary school test was the most important determinant of the assignment to the secondary school track. However, after 2014, teachers' track advice preceded the final test and played a more crucial role in student assignment to the track. Furthermore, for students who did not receive teacher advice for the university track, the end test results provide an opportunity to enroll in their desired track by adjusting the teacher recommendation upward.

We use a fuzzy multiscore regression discontinuity design to estimate the impact of teacher track advice on student performance on the test by comparing pupils just above and below the 1st quintile of 5th-grade midterm test scores in math and reading. Our findings suggest that students who are just above the 1st quintile have a higher probability of receiving a pre-university track recommendation and perform better on the final test than students who are just below the 1st quintile. This finding suggests that students who (did not) receive a teacher recommendation for the pre-university track (do not) increase their effort in the end-of-primary school test. Further heterogeneity analysis shows that native pupils and pupils of highly educated parents drive the effect of teacher track recommendation on student effort on the final test.

ID646 - The Long-Term Effects of Diversity in School: Evidence from West Germany's Guest Worker Program

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Abstract

The paper investigates the long-term effects of exposure to descendants of guest workers in school on the attitudes of native German students in adulthood. Beginning in 1955, millions of guest workers migrated to West Germany, resulting in significant demographic shifts. Using data from the German Socio-Economic Panel (SOEP), this study focuses on Germans who completed secondary school between 1975 and 1989. The results suggest that exposure to a small proportion of classmates with a migrant background is associated with a lower likelihood of expressing substantial concerns about immigration in adulthood. Exposure to diversity in school may lead to lasting changes in attitudes of the native population.

ID653 - Offering scholarships to adult skilled workers: Evidence from a field experiment

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Abstract

Low-educated adults are underrepresented in adult education. At the same time, the current high-paced technological change shapes and stimulates demand for a labor force capable of constantly updating its skill set, which can result in a wedge between labor supply and demand if the supplied and demanded skill profiles grow apart. In a large-scale field experiment, we study whether a financial incentive in the form of a scholarship increases enrollment in education among skilled adult workers. We find that the group receiving a scholarship are about 20 percent more likely to enroll in adult education compared to the control group.

ID656 - School Closures and Child Maltreatment

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Abstract

School closures were a drastic measure to reduce the spread of COVID-19 in 2020. While experts raised their voice warning about the possible effects regarding child maltreatment, it is still unknown to what extent school closures indeed led to an increase in child maltreatment. To provide causal evidence we leverage quasi-experimental variation in the length of school closures across cohorts and federal states in Germany und combine both survey data and administrative records on child maltreatment. We show that prolonged school closures not only account for increases in child maltreatment risk factors but also raise the prevalence of actual child maltreatment. The latter actually persists for several months after schools reopened.

ID662 - Untapped potential: Professional degree recognition and (un)paid work of migrant women

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Abstract

Immigrant women exhibit worse labor market outcomes and perform more unpaid work than immigrant men and native-born women in most industrial countries (Blau et al., 2020; Kamm et al., 2020; Kraszewska, Juchno and Todorova, 2020). A mismatch between foreign qualifications and formal labor sectors in the host country and subsequent educational downgrading might explain a large fraction of these gaps. We study the role of better degree recognition procedures on paid and unpaid labor of migrant women, also considering potential effects on marital and fertility outcomes. To establish causality, we exploit a Federal Recognition Act that was implemented in 2012 in Germany within a flexible difference-in-difference framework. Based on administrative and survey data, we find that post-reform, non-EU women eligible to apply for standardized and facilitated degree recognition perform more paid work, as well as reduce their workload in most non-paid tasks aside from childcare, for which we find null effects. We also find that the reform affected further family formation outcomes such as the probability to be married and have children. Our findings, which prove robust to a number of identification and robustness checks, underscore the importance of foreign degree recognition to tap into the human capital potential of migrant women.

ID663 - The Menopause Penalty

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Abstract

Menopause is a major biological shock to women, marking the end of their reproductive years. Despite its relevance, scant research has studied how it impacts social dynamics, labor market outcomes, or health care demand. Using high-quality linked national register administrative data from Norway and a stacked difference-in-differences design, we estimate the effect of menopause diagnosis on marriage stability, earnings, reliance on social safety net programs, and demand for medical care. We find that menopause affects a broad swath of women's lives, ranging from increased visits to doctors to depressed earnings. Policies aimed at supporting women that suffer more serious symptoms around the menopausal transition may have significant benefits.

ID664 - Videogames and the Gender Gap in Computer Science

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Abstract

In contrast to other STEM fields, over the last thirty years computer science has grown increasingly male-dominated. Using large-scale US survey data on field of education and occupation as well as data on computer and videogame playing from the mid-1980s to the early 2000s, I study the effect of the spread of videogames on the widening of the gender gap in computer science. Using two-way fixed effects regressions exploiting variation in the spread of videogames by state of birth and cohort, I find that for men, greater exposure to videogames when young is associated with (1) an increased probability of obtaining a bachelor's degree in computer science (2) an increased probability of working in a computer-related occupation, and (3) a decreased probability of obtaining any bachelor's degree. Among those who obtain a bachelor's degree, a 20% increase in the spread of videogames in their cohort (while teenagers) is associated with a 10% increase in the gender gap in the probability of studying computer science, and a 14% increase in the gender gap in the probability of working in a related field. To address potential endogeneity, I instrument for videogame exposure using the early prevalence of videogame arcades by state combined with national sales of games released each year. The IV analysis confirms the results, suggesting that videogame exposure may be an important driver of the gender gap in computer science, and providing additional evidence of the long-term role of non-academic activities during childhood on education and career choices and outcomes.

ID667 - Early childhood health inequalities and in-utero health interventions: evidence from the treatment of gestational diabetes

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Abstract

For years, diagnosis and treatment for gestational diabetes mellitus (GDM) has been an unresolved question. Current guidelines have established diagnosis and treatment standards, but the question remains on the potential impacts on child development via in-utero exposure to diabetes medications. We use uniquely rich data from the Born-in-Bradford cohort study, in which all pregnant women underwent universal screening for GDM based on clear thresholds over oral glucose tolerance tests (OGTT), rather than using pre-existing conditions as a screening criterion (as it is the standard practice). To evaluate the effects of GDM treatment, we use the OGTT cutoff within a sharp regression discontinuity design. We find that diagnosis and treatment of GDM resulted in improved outcomes at birth, in particular a significant reduction in the odds of being a macrosomic newborn. We also detect child BMI differences postnatally, but these fade out after 3 years of age; additionally, at five years of age, children of mothers diagnosed with GDM in pregnancy have reduced blood pressure. At age five, however, children of non-diagnosed mothers outperform those of GDM mothers in the Early Years Foundation Stage Profiles standardised test, a nationally-administered measure of school readiness. Hence, we confirm that treatment for GDM, as shown in the medical literature, improves outcomes of children at birth. However, we present for the first time evidence of potential adverse outcomes of treating GDM on children academic achievement five years later. Therefore, studies on long-run consequences of these GDM treatments on child development are urgently required.

ID669 - Workforce quality in early years interventions: Evidence from a large-scale home visiting program

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Abstract

Targeted early years programmes can have significant benefits for children's development; however, there are many examples of early interventions that have failed to live up to their promise, particularly when delivered at scale. Understanding the inputs into a successful early years programme is therefore essential to reform existing interventions and guide investment into the most promising programmes. In this paper, we consider the role of a crucial input: workforce effectiveness. We evaluate the degree of heterogeneity in workforce effectiveness in the context of the highly trained workforce employed by a successful, scaled home visiting programme in England. Using the quasi-random assignment of workers to families for identification, we estimate each worker's value-added in promoting children's physical, cognitive and socio-emotional development. We find evidence of substantial heterogeneity in workforce effectiveness; for example, a one-standard deviation increase in effectiveness leads to a 0.24SD increase in cognitive performance at age 2, and a 0.29SD increase in socio-emotional development. However, despite having access to unusually detailed data on worker characteristics and on process quality, we are only able to explain around 15% of the variation in worker effectiveness. Overall, our results show that there is substantial heterogeneity in effectiveness even among highly skilled workers, but we are only starting to understand its determinants.

ID673 - Minimum Wages and Provision of Training: The Swiss Case

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Abstract

Switzerland is generally known for its liberal labor market accompanied with high average wages. The growing wage inequality in recent years however lead to the introduction of binding minimum wages in several cantons since 2018. We study the effect of this adoption of minimum wages on the provision of training for adult workers by firms and changes in the type of training in the following years. We identify training effects using a two-way fixed effects model that takes account of the staggered introduction of the minimum wages across several cantons. We make use of the Swiss Labor Force Survey over the years 2016-2022 which includes information on wages and training of a representative sample of the Swiss prime age working population. We find robust evidence of an increase training incidence and training intensity provided by employers in affected cantons. This effect is mainly driven by training increases among low-wage as well as low-skilled workers and it increases over time. Employer therefore seem to be able to acquire large parts of the training benefits.

ID674 - Gender gaps in academia: the role of children

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Abstract

Despite progress in the participation of women in science, there are still significant gender gaps in the advancement and consolidation of their academic careers. This paper investigates the effect of parenthood on academic trajectories of male and female scientists. We combine data coming from a standardized curriculum system, containing longitudinal information on academic achievements of the full population of researchers in Uruguay with administrative records of academic positions and demographical information on childbirths. Using an event study approach around the birth date of the first child, we find that parenthood results in an important penalty on scientific productivity of mothers but not of fathers. We show that this penalty is largest for those women who had their first child before completing their PhD. Moreover, we provide novel evidence of a child penalty in the number of conference presentations for mothers, which is mainly explained by a sharp decline in the probability of attending international events in the years following the first child-birth. Motherhood also affects academic careers by reducing the probability of being admitted into the National Research System and being promoted to associate professor. These results suggest that the unequal impact of children on academic trajectories of male and female researchers is an important source of gender gaps in scientific activity.

ID677 - Publish or Procreate: The Effect of Motherhood on Research Performance

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Abstract

Women are underrepresented in science and representation deficits are even greater for more senior positions and the STEM fields. The dominant explanation is that male and female scientists %, even within the same field, publish at unequal rates. Prior studies suggest that the gender gap in scientific productivity reflects differential effects of childbearing on men and women, as women face tensions between the greedy institutions of family and scientific research. To limit the risk of selection and survival bias, this study investigates the unequal effects of parenthood on scientific productivity among university graduates at risk of publishing in STEM. Leveraging a unique combination of administrative registers on childbirth and granular bibliometrics on annual publications, our event study follows the individual productivity of STEM researchers in Denmark across the birth of their first child, and explores heterogeneity in terms of flexibility of work and home environments. We find that mothers at risk of publishing suffer an annual penalty of 25 percentage points on their scientific productivity relative to fathers over the first seven years after birth. The penalties are even greater among individuals, who enter publishing prior to birth, though conditioning on Doctoral Degree and survival in research publishing after birth reduces the penalty to 21 percentage points. The evidence suggests that flexibility of research fields and the support of partners and informal networks can play a significant role in alleviating penalties on female scientists.

ID678 - Uncertainty, Citizenship and Migrant Saving Choices

Hannah Zillesen

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Abstract

In most Western countries, migrants hold significantly less wealth than natives. Migrants also face significantly more uncertainty about their future. This paper examines the central role of uncertainty over citizenship prospects and future location in explaining their saving choices. Exploiting quasi-experimental variation and panel data from Germany, I show that migrants with a right to citizenship save as much as comparable natives, while migrants without this right save 30% less. This unexplained gap is closed completely when migrants in the latter group gain access to citizenship. The effect is not driven by changes in resources, but rather willingness to save. While standard theory predicts that saving increases in uncertainty, I show that the effect can reverse if utility is state-dependent, malleable, or resources are not equally accessible across states. I build a life-cycle saving model with uncertain retirement location and heterogeneous country preferences. The model shows that agents can have a "preparatory saving motive" that decreases in uncertainty. I confirm the importance of this novel motive empirically, showing that migrants become significantly more likely to invest in illiquid assets if they gain certainty about their right to stay.

ID681 - Local Finance and Job Creation: Examining Local Fiscal Multipliers on Private Employment

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Abstract

We propose a novel instrument to compute local fiscal multipliers. We use the fact that mayors increase spending just before local elections, which are held at regular 4-year intervals, to capture exogenous spikes in local investment expenditures. We build a rich panel of 278 Portuguese mainland municipalities, with fiscal, economic and political data, to quantify the fiscal policy transmission mechanism between 1986 and 2018. We find that a 1% increase in local investment generates a contemporaneous increase in the municipal private sector wage bill, due to an increase in the number of full time workers in the municipality, with an implied cost-per-job created of \EUR{17\,200}. Mean wages do not react contemporaneously to the shock. We also show spending on housing, social and sports infrastructures and roads are the investment spending components which increase the most in election years.

ID682 - Policy Evaluation of a Pregnancy Benefit: Effects on Births and Abortions

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Abstract

I evaluate the effects of a brand-new type of family policy – a pregnancy benefit – on women’s fertility behavior. The pregnancy benefit was introduced in Slovakia in 2021. It is paid to working women and students during two trimesters of their pregnancy. I examine the effects of the benefit on births and abortions, using high-quality, population-wide, administrative microdata and combining difference in differences approach with regression discontinuity design. In the short term, abortions seem to have dropped by at least 12%. Births have increased by roughly 4% but only in a very short run – during the first 3 months. The ongoing second wave of the COVID-19 pandemic seems to have negated any positive birth effects beyond 3 months. To my knowledge, this is the first evaluation of a novel, targeted *prenatal* cash transfer on fertility, as opposed to evaluations of traditional postnatal policies.

ID684 - Tax incentives to retirement saving and intertemporal income smoothing

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Abstract

Tax incentives to retirement saving typically imply that monetary amounts invested in retirement saving products are tax exempt, accumulate at a tax free interest rate but are subject to income taxation upon withdrawal. We use longitudinal tax records between 1982 and 1998 to estimate if tax incentives increase the flow of post-retirement income relative to earnings prior to retirement. To obtain exogenous variation in the incentive to use fiscally-favored products, we exploit the fact that maximum and minimum Social Security contribution limits introduce kinks in the relationship between public pension replacement rates and pre-retirement income. We find that tax incentives generate a stream of financial income that absorbs 2/3 of the fall in public pension retirement rates. Namely, while public pension replacement rates fall .7% by each 1% increase in income, total replacement rates only fall by .25%. When tax incentives were not available (prior to 1988) a fall in the public pension resulted in a one-to-one fall in total post-retirement income, indicating a limited ability to self-insure a the fall in public pension income.

ID685 - Can school supply reduce child labor demand? Experimental evidence from cacao regions in Ghana.

Isabel Guenther

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Abstract

We assess the impact of distributing "school kits" as an educational intervention to reduce child labour in low-income, rural settings. To do so, we conducted a clustered Randomized Control Trial (RCT) across 64 primary schools, involving 1,743 children and their caregivers in cocoa-growing communities in Ghana. The school kits provided to children included a school uniform, a pair of shoes, a school bag, 10 exercise books, five notebooks, 10 pens, and a mathematical set. Our findings show that school kits increased the quantity and quality of school supplies for children and reduced household education-related expenses. Notably, the intervention significantly reduced children's involvement in cocoa work and cocoa-specific child labour by about six percentage points across both six-month and seven-day periods. Finally, the school kits were particularly effective in reducing child labour among children from poorer households and those with fewer initial school supplies. However, school kits did not lead to a measured increase in school attendance.

ID688 - How Do Parents Respond to Child Gender?

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Abstract

Looking at the earnings profiles of men and women after their first child is born, a number of studies establish that women suffer a larger "child penalty" in earnings than men. We provide the first evidence showing that the child penalty is a lot larger when the first born child is a girl. We also show that women experience a decrease in life satisfaction and mental health in the year of birth. Investigating mechanisms underlying this, we find that mothers of daughters (relative to mothers of sons) spend significantly more time with their child than the father does. They also appear to spend more time on household chores. This ties in with two additional patterns in the data. One is that mothers of daughters are less likely to be married to the father of their (first born) child. The other is that women appear to become more conservative (or less progressive) after birth if they have had a daughter. If these tendencies are systematic, they imply that girls (or, more precisely, children in families with a first born girl) are growing up in different environments than boys.

ID690 - Understanding Growth Through Automation: The Neoclassical Perspective

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Abstract

We study how advancements in automation technology affect the division of aggregate income between capital and labor in the context of long-run growth. Our analysis focuses on the fundamental trade-off between the labor-displacing effect of automation and its positive productivity effect in an elementary task-based framework featuring a schedule of automation prices across tasks linked to the state of technology. We obtain general conditions for the automation technology and technical change driving automation to be labor-share displacing. We identify a unique task technology that reconciles the Kaldor facts with the presence of automation along the balanced growth path. We show that this technology aggregates to the Cobb–Douglas production function—thus providing novel task-based microfoundations for this workhorse functional form. We employ our theory to study the connection between the recent declines in the labor share and the unique nature of the current, IT-powered wave of automation.

ID693 - Pay Transparency, Inequality and Firm Performance

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Abstract

We study the impact of an increase in firm-level pay transparency on wage inequality and firm performance. We take advantage of a discontinuity in the application of a transparency law by firm size to evaluate the impact on small firms. First, we find that, over time, pay transparency reduces the gender wage gap by 0.8-1.3 percentage points, driven by an increase in female wages. Second, we find that pay transparency compresses the firm-level wage distribution by raising the wages at the bottom of the distribution both for men and women. While this could negatively affect worker morale and incentives, our third finding is that the policy does not have a detrimental effect on firm productivity. Moreover, our results suggest that increasing pay transparency at the firm-level decreased overall inequality by improving the bargaining position of the lowest-paid employees.

ID699 - Health Shocks and Household Allocation of Time and Spending

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Abstract

Using the Household Income and Labour Dynamics in Australia data we study changes in household allocation of time and spending when a family member experiences a health shock. Applying an event study design, we document that health shocks increase household expenditures and time spent in home production activities that are complements to healing and reduce expenditures and time in activities that are substitutes. Medical expenditures and spousal caregiving rise and alcohol spending, a substitute to healing, declines. Labour supply of the ill-person decreases at both intensive and extensive margin. As the ill-person's labour supply declines, we find an increase in consumption of complements to staying at home, such as spending in utilities and time for housework of the unaffected spouse. Although the fall in earnings is partially offset by worker compensation and social security payments, the inability to cut total spending results in a higher proportion of individuals reporting financial stress.

ID703 - The Impact of a Parental Leave Benefit Reform on Parents' Leave-taking, Labor Supply and Childcare Arrangements

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Abstract

We analyze the causal effects of a parental leave benefit reform on parents in Germany. The reform added new features to the existing scheme increasing flexibility for take-up and providing incentives for parents to work part-time during the parental leave phase. We exploit the quasi-experimental allocation of births around the eligibility date to estimate intent-to-treat-effects of the reform concerning labor market involvement, intra-couple childcare division and institutional childcare demand. We find that average leave duration of college-educated fathers in the treatment group is higher than that in the control group. In these couples, mothers in the treatment group take fewer months of parental leave than those in the control group. Furthermore, college educated fathers in the treatment group reduce working hours but we do not observe any significant changes for mothers. However, mothers in the treatment group whose partners have a college degree report that they would like to work more hours when returning to the labor market compared to those in the control group. While we do not find effects on intra-couple childcare division, our analysis reveals higher demand for institutional childcare among parents in the treatment group in case the father holds a college degree. However, higher institutional childcare demand is not reflected by higher uptake. We suggest that parents' heterogeneity regarding their work arrangements and gender role orientations as well as constraints in public childcare provision might explain our findings.

ID705 - The Role of Information and Contraceptive Use on Teen Pregnancy

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Abstract

This paper investigates the importance of information campaigns in policies providing free access to contraceptives. We exploit a policy change in Costa Rica, where the government provided access to long-acting reversible contraceptives (LARCs) to study the effects of both access and information campaigns on the teen birth rate. Utilizing a differences-in-differences methodology, we show a reduction over 21% in the teen birth rate during the first three years of the policy. To disentangle the role of information campaigns from the contraceptive provision, we leverage the number of years each cohort spent in school as the campaigns were primarily delivered within schools. We show that it's not just about access, it's also about the information: access to LARCs reduces the teen birth rate by 18%, whereas exposure to information campaigns amplifies the impact of access by roughly 4% more per year of exposure. The initial effect of access to LARCs on the teen birth rate nearly doubles after four years of exposure. We conclude that information campaigns are essential in conjunction with access to contraceptives to address adolescent pregnancy effectively.

ID706 - Outside Job Opportunities and the Gender Wage Gap

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Abstract

A growing literature suggests that outside job offers are an important component of on-the-job wage growth. Such outside offers could contribute to the gender wage gap due to a differential arrival rate of (relevant) job opportunities and/or because of gender differences in negotiation. In this paper, we shed light on this source of gender wage inequality by empirically studying male and female wage and job mobility responses to outside job opportunities that arise via family networks. We show in Swedish register data that male wages respond positively to individual job opportunities while female wages are unaffected. In contrast, women have higher mobility in response to expansions in connected firms- particularly when those offer a shorter commute compared to the current employer. Together, these results are consistent with a model where women are less likely to renegotiate their wage in response to outside job opportunities. The paper thus sheds light on a specific channel through which gender differences in rent-sharing can emerge.

ID711 - Air pollution and Test Scores: Impacts and Heterogeneity

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Abstract

This paper studies the effects of daily variation in outdoor air pollution on student test scores in an environment with low levels of pollution. We utilize Danish register data of the full population of elementary and lower secondary school students, who take mandatory national tests in math and reading. We match the home address of students to a 1x1 km grid of air pollution to obtain test date and lifetime pollution measures. We find that an increase in fine particles (PM_{2.5}), corresponding to the change from a very clean to an average polluted day, reduces student performance in math by 1.2% of a standard deviation and 0.8% of a standard deviation in reading.