

Seminar: Economics and the Mental Crisis

Introduction

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Outline

- 1 Introduction
- 2 Topics
- 3 Requirements

Introduction

Seminar deals with research questions from the recent health economics literature. This year the seminar is on:

Economics and the Mental Crisis

We live in a period with rapid technological, political and ecological change. Contemporary social problems bring fear, trauma and anxiety fueling a global mental crisis. This course will examine how the pandemic, global warming, economic inequality, violence, technology are connected with mental health.

- The goal is to be able to evaluate and summarize cutting-edge research in economics regarding the topics covered.

Background Literature

① Mental Health

- Ridley, M., Rao, G., Schilbach, F. and Patel, V., 2020. Poverty, depression, and anxiety: Causal evidence and mechanisms. *Science*, 370(6522), p.eaay0214.

② Empirical Methods

- Abadie, A. and Cattaneo, M.D., 2018. Econometric methods for program evaluation. *Annual Review of Economics*, 10(1).
- Cunningham, S., 2021. Causal inference. In *Causal Inference*. Yale University Press.

Topic 1

Suggested literature should be considered only as a starting point.

1 Robots, AI and Automation of Work

- Gihleb, R., Giuntella, O., Stella, L. and Wang, T., 2022. Industrial robots, workers safety, and health. *Labour Economics*, 78, p.102205.
- O'Brien, R., Bair, E.F. and Venkataramani, A.S., 2022. Death by robots? Automation and working-age mortality in the United States. *Demography*, 59(2), pp.607-628.

Topic 2

① **Mental Health Effects of Internet and Social Media**

- Braghieri, L., Levy, R. and Makarin, A., 2022. Social media and mental health. Forthcoming - American Economic Review

Topic 3

① Deaths of Despair

- Case, A. and Deaton, A., 2022. The great divide: education, despair, and death. Annual Review of Economics, 14, pp.1-21.

Topic 4

① Lockdowns and Mental Health

- Altindag, O., Erten, B. and Keskin, P., 2022. Mental health costs of lockdowns: Evidence from age-specific curfews in Turkey. American Economic Journal: Applied Economics, 14(2), pp.320-43.

Topic 5

① Living in Poor Neighborhoods

- Alloush, M. and Bloem, J.R., 2022. Neighborhood violence, poverty, and psychological well-being. Journal of Development Economics, 154, p.102756.

Topic 6

① State Violence and Mental Health

- Ang, D., 2021. The effects of police violence on inner-city students. The Quarterly Journal of Economics, 136(1), pp.115-168.

Topic 7

① Prescribing Behavior and Mental Health

- Currie, J.M. and MacLeod, W.B., 2020. Understanding doctor decision making: The case of depression treatment. *Econometrica*, 88(3), pp.847-878.

Topic 8

① Long Term Effects of Early Life Traumatic Events

- Adhvaryu, A., Fenske, J. and Nyshadham, A., 2019. Early life circumstance and adult mental health. *Journal of Political Economy*, 127(4), pp.1516-1549.
- Persson, P. and Rossin-Slater, M., 2018. Family ruptures, stress, and the mental health of the next generation. *American economic review*, 108(4-5), pp.1214-52.

Topic 9

1 Advertising and Mental Health

- Alpert, A., Evans, W.N., Lieber, E.M. and Powell, D., 2022. Origins of the opioid crisis and its enduring impacts. *The Quarterly Journal of Economics*, 137(2), pp.1139-1179.
- Shapiro, B.T., 2018. Positive spillovers and free riding in advertising of prescription pharmaceuticals: The case of antidepressants. *Journal of political economy*, 126(1), pp.381-437.

Topic 10

① Climate Change and Mental Health

- Mullins, J.T. and White, C., 2019. Temperature and mental health: Evidence from the spectrum of mental health outcomes. *Journal of health economics*, 68, p.102240.
- Dinkelman, T., 2017. Long run health repercussions of drought shocks: evidence from South African homelands. *The Economic Journal*, 127(604), pp.1906-1939.

Topic 11

1 The Effects of Terrorism

- Brodeur, A. and Yousaf, H., 2022. On the economic consequences of mass shootings. *The Review of Economics and Statistics*, pp.1-43.
- Bharadwaj, P., Bhuller, M., Løken, K.V. and Wentzel, M., 2021. Surviving a mass shooting. *Journal of Public Economics*, 201, p.104469.

Topic 12

1 Income and Mental Health

- Lindqvist, E., Östling, R. and Cesarini, D., 2020. Long-run effects of lottery wealth on psychological well-being. *The Review of Economic Studies*, 87(6), pp.2703-2726.
- Christian, C., Hensel, L. and Roth, C., 2019. Income shocks and suicides: Causal evidence from Indonesia. *Review of Economics and Statistics*, 101(5), pp.905-920.

Topic 13

❶ War and Mental Health

- Akbulut-Yuksel, M., Tekin, E. and Turan, B., 2022. World War II Blues: The Long lasting Mental Health Effect of Childhood Trauma (No. w30284). National Bureau of Economic Research.
- Blattman, C. and Annan, J., 2010. The consequences of child soldiering. The review of economics and statistics, 92(4), pp.882-898.

Empirical Seminar Paper

Possibility of empirical work

- We strongly encourage motivated students to write an empirical seminar paper on a topic related with the course.
 - Student opting for empirical work will benefit from asking specific questions and obtaining a solid foundation for further empirical work (e.g Master thesis, data analyst career).
 - We will support you all along the way on formulating your research question, finding the relevant dataset and writing the paper.
- Basic econometric knowledge and basic knowledge of a statistical program (e.g Stata) might be helpful.

Empirical Seminar Paper

Empirical project: data, topics etc

- Economic drivers of mental illnesses for individuals aged 50 and over. (e.g Share Data)
- Early life determinants of mental health (e.g DHS, MICS)
- Income shocks and mental health (e.g Young Lives India survey)

Choice of the topic

- Make a **ranking list** for **all** topics.
 - Assign a position to each topic (start with your favourite one).
 - Without ranking list, you get the topic that nobody has chosen.
- Excel model is available on the homepage.
- You will be enrolled after you have sent your ranking list to **nikolaos.prodromidis@uni-due.de**.
- Deadline for ranking list: **1.11.2022 23.59 Uhr** - After this date, late registrations can pick one of the remaining topics.

Requirements

① Term Paper

- The seminar paper must not exceed **20 pages** (inclusive Appendix, Graphs, Tables, etc.).
- Individual work.

② The presentation

- 20 minutes presentation with slides.

③ Discussant's comments:

- 5 minutes per presentation.

④ General discussion:

- 5 minutes per presentation.

Term paper

How to write a term paper?

- **Formal standards** must be considered: **Handout!**
- A brief **abstract** should summarize the main findings of the work and appeal to readers.
- **Introduction** should explain the relevance of the topic and the structure of the work.
- **Main content:** Classification and critical analysis of the literature.
- **Conclusion** summarizes and evaluates the most important findings; explain the relevance of the results and give an outlook for the future.
- **Deadline: 30. January 2023 23.59 uhr!**

Literature research

- **Literature research is required.**
- The best search engine is::
 - Google Scholar
- Access:
 - Uni-access is free of charge: automatically available when you use a university computer (for example in the library) or a remote access from your home.

Literature research

- **Selection criteria are required:**
- Pay attention to the quality and relevance of the research articles you include in your literature review.
- Look at publications on top-tier Journals (top-5; 'A Journals')
- or high impact Journals in Health Economics (JHE), Development (JDE) and Medicine/Public Health (NEJM).
- Handelsblatt-Ranking (see Homepage).
- Year of publication: NO publications older than 10 years (with exceptions for seminal papers).

Presentation

How to give a good presentation?

- **Speak freely..**
- Slides: as short as possible!!
- Layout is important, but it must not dominate.
- Clear and succinct definition of your topic.
- Concrete examples.
- Do not explain what you do not understand.
- Find more tips in the Handout..

Discussion

What does a discussant do?

- A critical evaluation of work (critical does not mean negative!)
- Be specific in your comments.
- Be constructive: tips about a new version of the paper..

Timeline

20.10. Introduction.

1.11. Deadline for ranking list.

3.11. Topic Assignment.

20.11. Last possibility for late registrations / change of the topic

30.01. **Deadline for handing in term paper..**

02.02. **Presentations: Part I .**

03.02. **Presentations: Part II .**