

Seminar: Microeconometric Tools for Labor Market Research and Policy Evaluation

Winter Term 2019/2020

Prof. Dr. Steffen Mueller

Productivity and Innovation

Head of the Department of Structural Change and Productivity at the Halle Institute for
Economic Research (IWH)

Contents

This course covers relevant topics from modern labor economics. It is designed to provide students with a sound understanding of the microeconomic tools that form the foundations of state-of-the-art empirical economic research. We will work through contents in an open atmosphere to stimulate questions and student participation, trigger scientific debates, and facilitate small research projects. Topics include the rise in wage inequality, wage discrimination, job displacement, and worker participation and we will cover microeconomic tools as, for instance, Instrumental Variable Estimators, Regression Discontinuity Designs, and Fixed Effects and GMM estimators.

Structure

The seminar will consist of weekly sessions on Wednesdays, starting October 9th, 11.15–12.45h in room G22A – 120. In the first (mandatory) session, each student will be randomly assigned to one of the topics and is expected to write a short seminar paper (10–12 pages) to be submitted at the end of the semester. We will typically spend two lectures on each topic: the first lecture briefly introduces the theoretical background and explains an econometric technique; the second lecture gives room for students to discuss scientific articles. All students actively discuss all articles during lectures and prepare (group) presentations for their assigned topic. The final grade will depend on the presentation (25%), article discussions (25%), and the written seminar paper (50%).

Enlistment

How to enlist? Write an email indicating your **name** and **student ID** to verena.pluempe@iwh-halle.de. As participants should have a solid knowledge in (micro)econometrics (Master level) and, at best, some background knowledge in labor economics, please also attach your **latest transcript of records** (download is sufficient). Enlisting **starts on July 15th** and **ends on October 7th**. Students will be notified successively by email about the result of the selection procedure. The mandatory enrolment (with your signature) is during the introductory lecture (on October 9th). At this point there will be a chance for students on a waiting list to take vacant places (from students not signing in).