

Seminar: Topics in Labor Market and Social Policy

Summer Term 2018

Chair of Economics: Productivity and Innovation

Prof. Dr. Steffen Müller

Contents

Labor market and social policy measures constitute important elements of modern welfare states. Evaluations of such policies are crucial to assess whether the intended effects really appear or whether they come along with unintended side effects. In this seminar, we will discuss recent papers evaluating different measures of active, passive, and regulatory labor market and social policy measures.

The following papers will be discussed:

1. Bossler, M. and Gerner, H.-D. (2016): "Employment effects of the new German minimum wage: Evidence from establishment-level micro data", IAB Discussion Paper, 10/2016, Nürnberg.
2. Caliendo, M., Mahlstedt, R., and Künn, S. (2017): "The Return to Labor Market Mobility: An Evaluation of Relocation Assistance for the Unemployed", *Journal of Public Economics* 148, 136–151.
3. Card, D., Kluve, J., and Weber, A. (2015): "What Works? A Meta Analysis of Recent Active Labor Market Program Evaluations", NBER Working Paper No. 21431, Cambridge, MA.
4. de Graaf-Zijl, M., van den Berg, G. J., and Heyma, A. (2011): "Stepping stones for the unemployed: the effect of temporary jobs on the duration until (regular) work", *Journal of Population Economics* 24, 107–139.
5. Dube, A., Lester, T. W., and Reich, M. (2010): "Minimum Wage Effects across State Borders: Estimates using Contiguous Counties", *The Review of Economics and Statistics* 92, 945–964.
6. Jespersen, S. T., Munch, J. R., and Skipper, L. (2008). "Costs and benefits of Danish active labour market programmes", *Labour Economics* 15, 859–884.
7. Lalive, R., van Ours, J., and Zweimüller, J. (2006): "How Changes in Financial Incentives Affect the Duration of Unemployment", *Review of Economic Studies* 73, 1009–1038.
8. Manoli, D. S. and Weber, A. (2016). "The Effects of the Early Retirement Age on Retirement Decisions", IZA Discussion Paper No. 10154, Bonn.
9. Nekoei, A. and Weber, A. (2014): "Does Extending Unemployment Benefits Improve Job Quality?", *American Economic Review* 107, 527–561.
10. Schmieder, J., von Wachter, T., and Bender, S. (2012): "The Effects of Extended Unemployment Insurance over the Business Cycle: Evidence from Regression Discontinuity Estimates over 20 Years", *Quarterly Journal of Economics* 127, 701–752.

Structure

The seminar will begin with an introductory session on **4 April, 2018** (room G22A-129). If you do not come to this session you will lose permission to take part in the seminar. In this first session, each student will be assigned one of the papers and is expected to write a short seminar paper (max. 6 pages) about this paper in the course of the semester. Moreover, students will hold **two** presentations. One presentation is about the

own paper (max. 25 min.) mainly discussing what the seminar paper will be about. Comments from seminar participants should help presenters to improve their later submitted seminar papers. This presentation should be sent to daniel.fackler@iwh-halle.de **2 May** (before midnight of that day). Then, we will send one presentation from another student to each participant that she will critically discuss in her second presentation (max. 10 min.) on the basis of what she has learned herself from the paper the presentation is about. Hence, each student is expected to be an “expert” on two papers of the literature list. This second presentation should be sent to daniel.fackler@iwh-halle.de by the evening of **15 May**. We will meet again on **16 May** for our presentation session (depending on the number of participants there may be a second meeting for presentations, on 17 May). Seminar papers are expected to be submitted by **1 June 2018** (before midnight of that day) to daniel.fackler@iwh-halle.de. The final grade will comprise two separately graded parts: the seminar paper (2/3) and the two presentations (1/3). Note that you only pass the seminar if each part is passed separately (e.g., in case that you do not hand in your presentations in time and, hence, this part is graded with 5.0, you cannot pass the seminar anymore).

Enlistment and prerequisites

How to enlist? Write an email indicating your **name** and **student ID** to eva.hank@iwh-halle.de. Also state your preferences for **three** of the papers from the literature list (descending from most to least preferred). Students should have a solid background in multivariate regression analysis, please attach your **latest transcript of records** (download from hisqis is sufficient). Enlisting **starts on 1 February** and **ends on 30 March**. Students will be notified successively by email about the result of the selection procedure. The mandatory enrolment (with your signature) is during the introductory session (on **4 April**). At this point there will be a chance for students on a waiting list to take vacant places (from students not signing in).