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Research Seminar & RTG Day

11.06.2024 (16:15 – 17:30, Room: Altendorfer A-B02, Essen) – Eric Maurin (Paris School of Economics)

“Sick of Working from Home?”

Driven by new information technologies, working from home has experienced unprecedented growth since the COVID pandemic. We contribute to the debate on the consequences of this development by drawing on a French reform conducted in 2017, with the aim of facilitating telework agreements between employers and employees. We show that the reform was followed by a boom in working from home, particularly in mid-level occupations. On the other hand, employees in lower-level occupations were virtually unaffected. By comparing occupational groups before and after the reform, in firms that have signed telework agreements and in firms that have not, we find that the development of working from home coincides with a significant deterioration in the health status of mid-level employees, particularly men. Wages and number hours worked, on the other hand, remain largely unaffected.

18.06.2024 (16:15 – 17:30, Room: Altendorfer A-B02, Essen) – Christian Traxler (Hertie School)

“Swiftness and Delay of Punishment”

This paper studies how the swiftness and delay of punishment affect behavior. Using rich administrative data from automated speed cameras, we exploit two (quasi-)experimental sources of variation in the time between a speeding offense and the sending of a ticket. At the launch of the speed camera system, administrative challenges caused delays of up to three months. Later, we implemented a protocol that randomly assigned tickets to swift or delayed processing. We identify two different results. First, delays have a negative effect on payment compliance: the rate of timely paid fines diminishes by 7 to 9% when a ticket is sent with a delay of four or more weeks. We also find some evidence that very swift tickets – sent on the first or second day following the offense – increase timely payments. These results align with the predictions of expert scholars that we elicited in a survey. Second, speeding tickets cause a strong, immediate, and persistent decline in speeding. However, we do not detect any robust, differential effects of swiftness or delay on speeding. This challenges widely held beliefs, as reflected in our survey. Yet, we document large mechanical benefits of swift punishment and provide a theoretical framework of learning and updating that explains our findings.

25.06.2024 (16:15 – 17:30, Room: Altendorfer A-B02, Essen) – Kristina Strohmaier
(University of Duisburg Essen)

“Tax Enforcement Spillovers – Evidence from Business Tax Audits in South Africa”
Taxpayer audits are key instruments to combat tax evasion. Whether they deter tax non-compliance beyond audited taxpayers is largely unclear, however. Drawing on rich tax administrative data for South Africa, we show that business tax audits enhance the tax reporting compliance of unaudited firms in the same local network as the targeted business. On average, firms’ reported tax liability increases by 1% when a business in close proximity (located within a 100m radius) undergoes an audit. This estimate translates into sizable aggregate revenue gains, as audited firms are linked to numerous neighbors. Additional analyses show that audit spillovers emerge across a larger spatial scale within industry and tax preparer networks. Our findings carry important implications for the design of tax enforcement policies.

Please find further information [here](#).

RWI – Leibniz-Institut für Wirtschaftsforschung

04.06.2024 (11:00 CET, E-Werk or Microsoft Teams) - Elisa de Weerd (Erasmus School of Economics & Tinbergen Institute)

TOPIC TBA

18.06.2024 (11:00 CET, E-Werk or Microsoft Teams) - Dr. Michelle Escobar (University of Melbourne)

TOPIC TBA

Please find further information either [here](#) or [here](#).

Essen Health Economics

03.06.2024 (12:00 - 13:00, WST.C 12.09) - Melanie Lührmann (Royal Holloway University)
“Pregnancy, food purchases and nutritional quality”

Pregnancy is a critical period for health investments, bolstered by extensive public health guidance and evidence that healthy prenatal environments foster child development with lifelong benefits. We provide new evidence on the impact of conception on nutritional choices and environments, during pregnancy and immediately after childbirth. Using an event study design on household scanner data, we show that the nutritional quality of households’ food purchases deteriorates substantially during pregnancy (relative to levels prior to conception). The share of healthy calories declines by 2.5 percentage points, equivalent to 50% of the mean difference in this share between a normal weight and an obese individual. This happens despite households’ halving their alcohol purchases, and is caused largely by increased purchases of high-sugar foods, especially among those with higher pre-conception alcohol purchases, suggesting adverse substitution effects from alcohol reduction. The deterioration of nutritional quality varies little by socio-economic status, pregnancy risk factors and food price environments.

10.06.2024 (15:00 - 16:00, online) - Peter Hull (Brown University)

“Geographic Variation in Healthcare Utilization: The Role of Physicians”

We study the role of physicians in driving geographic variation in US healthcare utilization. We estimate a model that separates variation in utilization of Medicare beneficiaries due to physicians, non-physician supply side factors, and patient demand. The model is identified by patient and physician migration and within-area matching. We find that at least a third of geographic variation can be explained by differences in the intensity with which physicians treat otherwise similar patients. Around three-fifths of physicians’ role comes from differences across areas in practice styles within specialty, while the other two-fifths reflects differences across areas in physician specialty mix.

17.06.2024 (12:00 - 13:00, WST.C 12.09) - Michelle Escobar Carias (University of Melbourne)

24.06.2024 (12:00 - 13:00, WST.C 12.09) - Lorens Helmchen (George Washington University)

Please find further information [here](#).

University DUISBURG-ESSEN

Campus Duisburg – MSM Research Seminars

12.06.2024 (12:00 – 13:00, Room LB 338) - Florian Hoffmann (Katholieke Universiteit Leuven)

“Auctions vs. Negotiations: The Role of the Payment Structure”

We investigate a seller’s strategic choice between negotiating with fewer bidders and running an auction with additional bidders, allowing for general security payments. The key factor favoring negotiations is the seller’s rent-extraction benefit of setting her preferred payment structure; reserve prices are of secondary importance. Negotiations are more valuable if the seller’s asset creates more value at more productive bidders – in which case sellers prefer contingent payments while bidders prefer cash – and if the dispersion and magnitude of bidders’ private valuations are higher. Our results have implications for mergers and acquisitions, patent licensing, and compensation negotiations in tight labor markets.

19.06.2024 (12:00 – 13:00, Room LB 338) - Peter Grundke (University Osnabrück)

“Marketplace lending: a viable business model? A transaction cost-based analysis”

In a Diamond (1984) model setting extended by ex-ante information asymmetry it is shown that MPL platforms are typically not superior to a financial intermediary solution with banks in terms of reduced transaction costs. Only when simultaneously the default probabilities of the projects carried out by the debtors and the number of creditors per project are small, the MPL platform can dominate the bank. Private diversification of the creditors only slightly shifts the advantageousness in favor of the MPL platform solution. If the MPL platform has skin-in-the-game by taking the first loss tranche, this can have a stronger effect on the advantageousness of the MPL platform solution (depending on the additional services provided by the platform).

26.06.2024 (12:00 – 13:00, Room LB 338) - Kerry Inger (Auburn University)

TOPIC TBA

Please find further information [here](#).

Campus Essen – Economics Seminars

05.06.2024 (14:15 – 15:45, Room T03 R02 D82) - Nora Strecker (University College Dublin)

“Falling tariffs: implications of globalization-induced tariff reductions on firms, workers, and tax revenues”

12.06.2024 (14:15 – 15:45, Room T03 R02 D82) - Dmitri Vinogradov (University of Glasgow)

“Survey-based expectations and uncertainty attitudes”

26.06.2024 (14:15 – 15:45, Room T03 R02 D82) - Astrid Krenz (Ruhr University of Bochum)

TOPIC TBA

Please find further information [here](#).

TU Dortmund

Economics Seminar

03.06.2024 (12:30 – 14:00, Vogelpothsweg 87, Room 127) – Christian Bayer (U Bonn)
"Das Sein bestimmt das Bewußtsein: Attitudes towards fiscal policy according to HANK"

10.06.2024 (12:30 – 14:00, Vogelpothsweg 87, Room 127) – Tom Görges
TOPIC TBA

17.06.2024 (12:30 – 14:00, Vogelpothsweg 87, Room 127) – Jeanne Tschopp (U Bern)
"The Impact of Unions on Non-union Wage Setting: Threats and Bargaining" and is joint with David Green, Ben Sand and Iain Snoddy"

Please find further information [here](#).