



The 39th Annual Conference of the European Society for Population Economics (ESPE)

Espoo – Helsinki, June 11 – 13, 2026

ABSTRACTS

Thursday, 11th of June

Parallel Sessions A (13:00–14:30)

Homes, No Homes (V001)

Jorge Pascoa (Nova Sbe), Touristification and Incumbent Residents: Evidence from Personal Income Tax Records (319)

Touristification has emerged as a transformative yet contentious force in urban economies, creating both economic opportunities and displacement pressures. We estimate the impact of a rapid touristification boom on residential mobility and income trajectories of incumbent households in two of Europe’s most affected cities. Using administrative tax records from 2016–2019 and an instrumental variable strategy based on proximity to tourist amenities, we show that short-term rental expansion significantly increased out-migration rates. We further document heterogeneous income effects across sources and demographic groups, identifying the populations most vulnerable to tourism-driven housing market shocks.

Alexander Patt (IAB Nuremberg), Home Ownership and Structural Changes in the Labour Market (236)

Despite increased mortgage affordability and declining borrowing costs, homeownership rates among early-career individuals in Germany have fallen since the early 2000s. We hypothesize that this trend is driven by a major shift in the composition of employment, namely, the rise of the service sector and the growing concentration of jobs in urban areas, which has led to greater job-related mobility and higher opportunity costs of home ownership. We document these developments and develop a structural model to estimate

counterfactual scenarios, allowing us to assess how the housing market might have evolved under alternative conditions.

Simon Voss (Freie Universität Berlin), Do Homeless Shelters Increase Local Crime? Evidence from Los Angeles (596)

In this paper, I present causal evidence on the effect of homeless housing sites on local crime rates. Theoretically, homeless shelters could attract more homeless individuals— and potentially more criminal activity—thereby turning these areas into crime hot spots (Cohen & Felson 1979, Anderson 2014). On the other hand, shelters may reduce street homelessness by providing basic shelter to the target population, which could ultimately lower neighborhood crime. As a result, the overall impact of homeless shelters on local crime remains unclear. Despite frequent community opposition to new shelter openings, empirical research on this relationship is limited. To address this gap, I use a unique dataset that geocodes all designated homeless housing sites in the city of Los Angeles. To identify the causal effect of these sites on crime while mitigating bias from the potentially endogenous placement of shelters, I implement a Difference-in-Differences design with spatial spillovers. This approach uses locations of crime incidents and shelter sites to define treatment and control areas based on concentric rings around the shelter locations. My results show that the opening of a homeless shelter does not affect overall crime, while it significantly increases the prevalence of homeless-related crime. One possible explanation is that these shelters attract additional homeless people to the area, increasing both the pool of potential offenders and vulnerable targets.

Female Political Representation (V002)

Yolanda Rebollo Sanz (Universidad Pablo De Olavide), Breaking the Glass Ceiling: How Female Mayors Affect Women's Political Advancement: Evidence from Spanish Municipal Elections (420)

This paper investigates whether female executive leadership generates spillover effects that benefit other women's political careers. Using a fuzzy regression discontinuity design exploiting close mixed-gender elections in Spanish municipalities (2011-2023), we find that female mayors substantially improve other women's political positions. Female mayors reduce normalized list rank by 0.019 points and increase access to first position by 5.7 percentage points. Effects are heterogeneous: new female candidates experience large improvements in list placement and nearly doubled access to leadership positions, while incumbent women's career trajectories deteriorate. These displacement patterns suggest female mayors facilitate generational turnover at the top of party lists, promoting new women into leadership while established female politicians lose ground. The results are inconsistent with network/mentorship mechanisms and instead support signaling to party gatekeepers as the primary channel. Our findings demonstrate that breaking the executive glass ceiling

reshapes the composition of female political leadership rather than simply expanding opportunities for women

Tanya Wilson (University of Glasgow), English Female Councillors and Domestic Abuse (509)

This paper examines the relationship between the gender composition of local councils and domestic abuse in England. Using administrative data on police-reported incidents, we find a positive correlation between female representation in local government and reported domestic abuse rates, consistent with prior empirical studies. However, individual-level survey data suggest that a higher proportion of female councillors leads to a lower probability that a woman has experienced domestic abuse in the past year. Our instrumental variable analysis supports a causal interpretation of this relationship. We also explore possible explanations for these patterns and provide suggestive evidence on potential channels.

Margherita Negri (University of St Andrews), Backlash in the Backyard: Female Representation and Gender Attitudes in the UK (217)

We study how increased female representation in politics affects gender attitudes in the United Kingdom. Our analysis combines local election results in England between 2002 and 2019 with survey data from Understanding Society and the British Household Panel Survey. Using a Regression Discontinuity Design on mixed-gender electoral races, we find that the election of a female councilor leads to a shift towards more conservative gender attitudes among the adult population. This backlash effect is entirely driven by men, and is particularly pronounced among individuals facing greater economic insecurity – such as the unemployed, those more exposed to import competition from China and those more affected by austerity reforms. By contrast, effects on women are limited, though we find that the election of a female councilor increases their support for work-family reconciliation policies. Importantly, given the institutional context of local councils in England, our results are unlikely to be explained by gender differences in policymaking. Further analysis suggests that these effects are concentrated on attitudes related to the private sphere, rather than broader views about gender roles in society.

Skills and Training (T003)

Krista Riukula (Etila Economic Research), Information Alone Is Not Enough: Randomized Trials of Lifelong Learning Interventions for Low-Educated Adults (328)

This paper studies whether providing information can increase participation in adult education among low-educated individuals. We evaluate two large-scale randomized field experiments implemented in Finland by the Service Centre for Continuous Learning and Employment (SECLE). The first experiment provides general information on the benefits, costs, and financing of adult education to individuals without post-compulsory education in a letter form. The second experiment evaluates an outreach program in which service providers approach small-and medium-sized firms and deliver tailored, face-to-face information on

local training opportunities to employees. Using rich administrative register data and experimental variation at the individual and regional levels, we find that the information letter has no effect on educational participation. In contrast, the outreach program increases enrollment in secondary education by 0.75 percentage points.

Pascal Heß (Institute For Employment Research), Perceived Costs and Benefits of Participating in Further Training (615)

Rapid technological change has increased the importance of on-the-job training for workers' skill adaptation, yet training participation remains persistently low and highly unequal across the workforce. Using a panel survey of approximately 3,000 workers, linked to administrative employer–employee records, and two randomized information experiments, we study how workers' beliefs about the costs and benefits of further training shape their participation decisions. We elicit workers' expectations over training costs—including time, financial, and psychological components—and anticipated labor market returns such as wages, job opportunities, and work performance. We find that workers who do not participate in training perceive substantially higher training costs, particularly those related to course search and exam situations, and only slightly higher benefits than those who have trained. Providing information on training costs reduces perceived barriers and increases stated training intentions but does not translate into higher realized participation. In contrast, information on training benefits has limited effects on beliefs but increases planned, yet not actual, training. The results highlight the central role of perceived costs in training decisions and suggest that information campaigns focusing on expected returns alone may have limited effectiveness.

Teresa Backhaus (University of Bonn), Personality and Labour Earnings Across the Life-Cycle (561)

Earnings differences over the working life arise from the joint evolution of wages, employment stability, and career dynamics. This paper examines how personality traits shape the accumulation of labour earnings over the life cycle. We exploit a novel linkage of German administrative social-security records with long-running survey data to combine complete employment and earnings biographies with established measures of the Big Five personality traits, risk preferences, and locus of control. We find that personality traits are significantly related to earnings accumulation. Decomposing lifetime earnings into wage and employment components shows that conscientiousness and an internal locus of control are associated with higher accumulated earnings for both men and women, while agreeableness, neuroticism, and—particularly for women—extraversion are linked to lower earnings accumulation. Conscientiousness operates primarily through stronger labour market attachment, whereas locus of control affects both wages and employment; agreeableness and neuroticism are disadvantageous on both margins. To uncover the underlying mechanisms, we analyse career trajectories, wage growth, job mobility, non-employment spells, and benefit receipt. Traits associated with higher mobility are linked to longer non-employment spells and greater benefit receipt, while conscientiousness and an internal locus

of control are associated with shorter employment interruptions and lower employment frictions. Allowing for non-linearities shows that extreme trait levels can be associated with less favourable outcomes.

Marriage, Kids, and War (T004)

William Huang (University of Technology Sydney (UTS)), *Bloodshed & Wedlock: The Effects of War on Age at Marriage in Nepal* (243)

This paper examines how exposure to violence during the 1996–2006 Nepali Civil War affected women’s age at first marriage, and spousal age gaps. Using pooled data from five rounds of the Nepal Demographic and Health Surveys, linked to district-level conflict fatalities, I estimate a difference-in-differences framework comparing women exposed to varying intensities of wartime violence with unexposed cohorts. The results show that conflict exposure delays age at marriage, and narrows spousal age gaps, with effects increasing in the intensity of violence. Age-specific hazard estimates further indicates that conflict shifts marriage away from early adolescence toward later ages. By exploiting variation in the timing of exposure, I also show that these effects are driven primarily by violence experienced during early adolescence (ages 10–14), rather than by early-childhood, or cumulative lifetime exposure. Finally, the responses are highly heterogeneous by religion and caste. High-caste Hindu women replace early marriage with continued secondary schooling, while lower-caste Hindu women delay marriage but experience declines in secondary school completion. These findings highlight how conflict reshapes marriage markets through existing social institutions, with unequal consequences across groups.

Adrien Vallette (Crest - Institut Polytechnique De Paris), *The Serial Monogamist and the Involuntary Celibate: How Divorce Shapes the Gender Gap in Childlessness* (630)

The economic analysis of fertility focuses on the average number of children per woman. Male fertility and childlessness (never having a child) remain underexplored. In this paper, we start by documenting a novel fact: in France, while childlessness used to be similar for men and women, around 13%, the fraction has increased substantially for men, reaching 21% in the most recent cohort, but not for women. We then investigate whether the emergence of serial monogamy (divorces and remarriages) can explain this trend. We develop a dynamic matching model of the marriage market with transferable utility, endogenous divorce, and remarriage. We show that an exogenous reduction in the cost of divorce can exacerbate the gender gap in childlessness under two conditions: (1) female fertility declines sharply with age and (2) matching preferences are characterized by a strong age hypergamy. When these conditions hold, a higher divorce rate intensifies competition faced by young men, making it harder for them to find a partner of reproductive age, while expanding options for young women. Finally, we use French administrative data to calibrate our model. We conclude that the rise in divorce since the 1960s is likely to explain partly, but not fully, the increasing gender gap.

Anderson Vil (Paris School of Economics), The Household Demand for Leisure, the Price of Time, and the Full Cost of Children: A Structural Model and Evidence from the PSID. (510)

We propose a novel approach to estimating the full cost of children — the sum of monetary and time costs — by endogenizing the price of parental time rather than assuming it is equal to the parents' wage rate. In this approach, the price of time depends on how parents perceive their time with children, whether as a leisure-like activity or more as a labor-like activity. We then develop a simplified collective model of leisure demand for working couples, incorporating individual preferences and childcare technology, and estimate it using 2019 PSID data. This allows us to recover the price of parental time and the full cost of children. We find that mothers perceive 44% of their childcare time as labor, compared to 35% for fathers. Our results also highlight that a substantial portion of the full cost of children is non-monetary.

Ambulances and Hospitals (U006)

Raphael Gottweis (Vienna University of Economics and Business (WU)), Gender in Emergency Medical Services (456)

Paramedics make high-stakes decisions in medical emergencies. This paper studies whether such decisions depend on the gender composition of paramedic teams. Using data on emergency calls in Austria, we exploit the quasi-random assignment of teams to emergencies. We find that teams with female paramedics are 0.5 to 1.7 percentage points less likely to hospitalize patients. These differences are driven by paramedics' decisions rather than patient preferences. Importantly, lower hospitalization rates have no adverse effects on outcomes of non-hospitalized patients. Female teams spend similar time with patients, gather more detailed medical histories, and do not increase the risk of subsequent emergencies.

Martina Celidoni (University of Padua - Department of Economics and Management), The Effect of Triage Nurse Leniency on Hospitalizations and Patients' Readmission and In-Hospital Mortality (569)

We investigate the causal effect of emergency department (ED) triage priority on patient resource allocation and health outcomes, using administrative records from a large Italian hospital. To address the endogenous assignment of triage codes, we employ an instrumental variable approach exploiting the quasi-random assignment of patients to triage nurses with varying degrees of discretionary leniency. We find that being assigned a more urgent code (Yellow or Red) increases the probability of hospitalization by 4.6 percentage points and significantly reduces waiting times. Crucially, this prioritization yields substantial health returns for marginal patients, leading to a sustained reduction in readmissions and a significant decrease in long-term mortality (1.3 to 2.2 percentage points). These survival gains are even more pronounced at the Red code margin. Our findings imply that triage priority is a

vital determinant of survival and that standardizing clinical benchmarks could further optimize resource allocation.

Cheti Nicoletti (University of York), Unexpected Worker Absences as Labor Supply Shocks: Evidence from Ambulance Services (354)

Leveraging comprehensive administrative data on hospitals and ambulance stations, we estimate the causal effect of staff shortages in ambulance stations on patient mortality in emergency departments (EDs). We exploit quasi-random variation in worker shortages caused by unexpected sickness absences across ambulance stations serving the same ED. We find a substantial and statistically significant effect: a one-standard-deviation increase in the sickness absence rate raises patient mortality within 24 hours of arrival at the ED by 0.78%. This result highlights the critical role of ambulance workers in emergency care quality and provides evidence on the damage caused by ambulance services' understaffing.

Firms, Careers, and Gender Outcomes (U1)

Atte Pudas (Aalto University & Helsinki GSE), Having It All? Gender Differences in the Returns and Trade-Offs of Inventor Careers (247)

This paper examines gender differences in the returns and trade-offs of inventor careers, motivated by women's underrepresentation in innovation and the long-standing question of whether women can truly "have it all" — an ambitious career, a partner, and children. Using Finnish administrative data linked to patent records, I document a gender pay gap of over 20% among patent inventors, consistent with prior research. Novel to the literature, I show that this gap does not stem from differential returns to patenting but reflects broader labor-market disparities. The gap emerges years before inventors' first patent filings and closely mirrors income differences among comparable non-inventors. Furthermore, using a matched triple-difference model, I estimate inventors' income gains from patenting and show that they are broadly similar for women and men — relatively even higher for women. Non-pecuniary costs, however, are disproportionately borne by female inventors. I present novel evidence that women delay childbearing during the 'crunch time' leading up to their first patent filing, reducing lifetime fertility, and have temporarily higher divorce rates around the filing year. In contrast, male inventors exhibit modest opposite patterns. These findings suggest that greater career trade-offs, rather than weaker financial incentives, underlie women's underrepresentation in innovation.

Alexandra Lugova (Universite Savoie Mont Blanc), Publicizing Inequality: How Gender Pay Gap Disclosure Affects Employee Well-Being (555)

This paper examines whether gender pay inequality within firms affects employees' mental well-being and how mandatory pay transparency alters this relationship. Using French linked employer–employee survey data combined with administrative information on firm-level gender pay gaps, I study workers' mental well-being around the introduction of the Egapro

Index, which mandated the public disclosure of gender equality indicators beginning in 2019. First, I show that although women consistently report poorer mental well-being than men, the magnitude of the within-firm gender pay gap is not meaningfully associated with gender differences in mental well-being. Second, leveraging the first wave of mandatory disclosure for firms with 1,000 or more employees, I implement a difference-in-differences design to estimate the causal effect of pay transparency. The results indicate that the public disclosure of gender equality information has immediate positive effects on employees' mental well-being, driven primarily by the advantaged group of male employees. Transparency policies should, therefore, be accompanied by proactive and credible measures that directly address pay inequality, in order to ensure that the benefits of disclosure extend to female employees and do not remain purely informational.

Jarkko Harju (University of Glasgow), Patent Filing and Firm Performance (416)

This paper examines how innovation affects firm survival, scale, productivity, and market position by comparing first-time patenting firms to otherwise similar firms that never patent. We further distinguish between granted and rejected patent applications to separate the returns to innovation from those attributable specifically to patent approval. Firms with granted patents exhibit substantially lower exit rates, nearly 20 percentage points lower than unsuccessful applicants, indicating large extensive-margin effects. Beyond survival, granted patents are associated with pronounced intensive-margin responses: firm scale, measured by revenue, value added, and wage bills, is approximately 25-30 log points larger. Firms with rejected patent applications also grow faster than non-patenting peers, though by a smaller margin of about 20 log points. In contrast, we find no systematic effects on firm productivity or the capital-labor mix, suggesting that post-innovation growth is driven by the expansion of existing activities rather than automation or technological restructuring. Finally, we document significant gains in industry-level market shares among successfully patenting firms, indicating that innovation confers lasting competitive advantages.

Part-time and Hybrid Work (U3)

Lea Bergmann (RWI), The Effects of Part-Time Work on Firms (356)

Part-time work becomes more popular around the world, especially for parents. This paper studies how firms react to the right to work part-time. I examine a 2001 German reform that granted employees in firms with more than 15 employees the legal right to reduce working hours permanently. Using establishment-level administrative data and a difference-in-discontinuities design around the 16-employee threshold, I find that the mandate increased part-time share at the firm level increased only slightly. Moreover, it did not affect firms' payroll costs, hiring, or discriminatory practices against women. Importantly, firms did not bunch below the threshold to avoid compliance. Overall, these results imply that the part-time mandate does not have a lasting impact on firms.

Lea-Karla Matić (The Institute of Economics, Zagreb), The Right to Parental Part-Time Work in Austria (431)

Part-time work is a central yet understudied policy margin through which governments seek to reconcile paid employment and family responsibilities. This paper estimates the causal effects of Austria's 2004 introduction of a legal right to parental part-time work for employees in firms with more than 20 workers. Using rich administrative data and a triple-difference-in-differences design, we show that the reform generates large and persistent increases in part-time work but only modest and short-lived effects on labor market attachment. Instead, post-birth adjustment occurs through both higher employer retention and subsequent fertility. These gains come with persistent earnings losses and a higher child penalty, especially in sectors with steep returns to long and continuous working hours. We also find adverse short-term effects on maternal mental health with no evidence of long-term impacts.

Agnieszka Postepska (University of Groningen), Working 9-to-5(ish): Can Hybrid Work Help Close the Labor Market Gender Gaps? (278)

We study whether the "work-from-home experiment" following COVID-19 up to year 2024 narrowed gender gaps in the Dutch labor market, using unique in size and scope linked administrative employer--employee records and complementary surveys. The near-universal adoption of hybrid work in the Netherlands provides a natural test of Claudia Goldin's hypothesis that reorganizing work can advance gender equality where family policies plateau. We combine two complementary strategies: (i) an event-study of job switchers exploiting quasi-exogenous variation in firm-level remote-work prevalence; and (ii) a two-way fixed-effects panel tracking stayers as employers expand or roll back hybrid practices. Among switchers, moving to remote-friendly firms substantially increased women's contracted hours---about 25.1 million additional female hours per year in our sample (approx. 2.2\$ million for mothers)---with the largest gains from very short part-time baselines; women also earned higher real hourly wages than similar movers to less flexible firms. Men---particularly fathers---slightly reduced working time by trimming very long schedules; these cutbacks were smaller when moves were to remote-friendly firms. The fixed-effects estimates for stayers point the same way: as firms expanded hybrid work, mothers modestly increased hours, especially from very short part-time baselines, while real wages for stayers were flat to slightly negative amid high inflation. Taken together, the evidence indicates that reorganizing work through hybrid arrangements narrowed gender gaps in working time by unlocking latent female labor supply, with effects most precisely estimated for medium-to-large private employers where remote adoption and mobility are best measured.

Fertility, Peer Effects, and Family Dynamics (U4)

Maddalena Totarelli (ifo Institute & LMU Munich), Children and Divorce (180)

Do children serve as relationship-specific capital, thereby increasing union stability? This paper provides causal evidence on this question by examining the extensive fertility margin among couples seeking to become parents. We exploit exogenous variation in childbearing generated by the success of the first in vitro fertilization (IVF) cycle for childless women in Denmark. Using comprehensive administrative data, we instrument fertility with IVF success, which is largely independent of pre-treatment couple characteristics. Our estimates reveal that having a child has a substantial stabilizing effect on relationships in the short and medium run, though this effect attenuates over time. We find heterogeneity by union type: for married couples, children reduce the risk of divorce for nearly a decade, whereas for cohabiting couples, children primarily induce short-term transitions into marriage. These results offer new insights into the role of children as couple-specific capital and carry implications for policies related to family formation and assisted reproduction.

Yasemin Özdemir (University of Bayreuth), Fertility Peer Effects (539)

We study how family peers shape adult fertility decisions. Using rich Dutch administrative data, we provide well-identified causal evidence that fertility is contagious within families. A sibling's transition to parenthood substantially raises an individual's likelihood of having a child, beginning one year later for women and two years later for men. In particular, having a sibling who entered parenthood within the previous two years nearly triples the probability of becoming a mother and doubles the probability of becoming a father in any given quarter. Focusing on first births, we show that learning from a sibling's (or sibling's partner's) experience is the dominant mechanism. Spillovers are strongest among same-gender siblings (men with brothers) and among close-age siblings (women with siblings within one year), consistent with conformity rather than differentiation in the presence of sibling competition. We further demonstrate that access to grandmaternal support plays a critical role: fertility spillovers are amplified when the grandmother is more available in terms of time and geographic proximity, suggesting competition for shared family resources.

Roberto Nisticò (University of Naples Federico II), Workplace Peer Effects in Fertility Decisions (175)

This paper examines the impact of co-workers' fertility on individual fertility decisions. Using matched employer-employee data from Italian social security records (2016–2020), we estimate how fertility among co-workers of similar age and occupation affects the individual likelihood of having a child. We exploit variation generated by the 2015 Jobs Act, which reduced fertility among workers hired under weaker employment protection. Focusing on workers hired before the reform and using the share of colleagues hired after the reform as an instrument for peer fertility, we find that a one-percentage-point increase in peer fertility raises individual fertility by 0.4 percentage points (a 10% increase). A placebo test using

colleagues in other establishments of the same firm yields no effect, supporting a causal interpretation. Heterogeneity analysis suggests that while social influence and social norms are key mechanisms, information sharing and career concerns, particularly among women, tend to moderate the response. Our findings highlight how changes in employment protection may have unintended fertility spillovers through workplace social interactions.

Effects of Climate Change on Marriage, Fertility, and Work (U5)

Marion Breton (European University Institute), Thinking Twice About Children: The Role of Lifetime Exposure to Climate Change (229)

Climate change is increasingly cited as a reason for foregoing childbearing. This paper investigates the prevalence of this phenomenon and the channels through which climate risk shapes fertility plans. I field a new online survey of individuals of childbearing age living in Europe, collecting detailed information on realized fertility and intentions, climate-related beliefs and emotions, and residential histories, which I combine with high-frequency weather data to construct an index of lifetime exposure to climate change. 75% of respondents feel pessimistic about future impacts of climate change and their own life and family, one quarter report that climate change influences their decision to become parents, and about 7% report regretting having had children; these groups tend to have lived in locations with larger departures from their historical climate. To understand these patterns, I develop a two-period life-cycle model in which couples choose whether and when to have children under an uncertain future climate state. Couples differ both in their preference for children and in climate-related anxiety. A bad climate realization affects fertility through (i) an aggregate channel, where climate change raises prices via inflation, and (ii) an idiosyncratic channel, where climate anxiety creates a disutility from raising children in a deteriorating climate. The model delivers predictions on how lifetime exposure and climate anxiety jointly shape the timing and level of childbearing, which I confront with the survey evidence to shed light on the mechanisms behind delayed or forgone births.

Shobhit Kulshreshtha (Uppsala University), Too Hot to Work? Effect of Temperature on Intra-Day Work Time (540)

Rising temperatures due to climate change pose significant challenges to labor productivity, particularly in low- and middle-income countries such as India, where extreme heat exposure is increasingly common. While existing research documents adverse effects of heat on labor outcomes, little is known about how individuals adjust their work patterns within a day in response to temperature fluctuations. This study examines the impact of ambient temperature on time allocation, with a focus on intraday substitution of paid work hours, using nationally representative data from the 2019 Indian Time Use Survey combined with high-frequency temperature data measured at 30-minute intervals. We estimate the effect of temperature on both total daily time spent on paid work and the likelihood of working during specific periods of the day. Our results show that extreme heat has limited effects on overall

daily work hours but leads to substantial intra-day reallocation of labor. Individuals shift work toward cooler early morning hours and reduce work during the hottest midday periods. This pattern is primarily driven by younger men and workers in self-employed or casual jobs, who have greater flexibility in their schedules. In contrast, salaried workers reduce work during peak heat without compensatory increases at other times. These findings highlight the importance of flexible work arrangements and targeted heat-mitigation policies to sustain productivity and worker well-being in a warming climate.

Zahra Siddique (University of Bristol), Extreme Weather Events and Child Marriage: Evidence from Bangladesh (712)

I investigate the impact of extreme weather events (such as droughts and floods) on the age of marriage. I examine these impacts in Bangladesh which is characterized by a high frequency and severity of extreme weather events as well as high rates of child marriage. I combine seven waves of Demographic and Health Survey data from 2000 to 2022 to construct marital and fertility histories of reproductive age women with local precipitation data. I find that dry conditions reduce the hazard into early marriage (by age 18 or 24 years) but that this hazard increases for households in coastal regions.

Medical Care and Medications (U6)

Amanda Gaulke (Kansas State University), Innovations in Medical Care and Socioeconomic Health Disparities in Childhood (108)

Socioeconomic health disparities in childhood are well documented, and the role of medical innovation is theoretically unclear. We use the rollout of insulin pumps for children and adolescents with Type 1 Diabetes in Denmark and Danish administrative data to show a clear socioeconomic gradient in insulin pump adoption. We reproduce the estimated effect of insulin pump adoption on glucose control from meta-analyses of RCTs using both an event study and an IV. We then document larger improvements in glucose control (a key predictor of diabetes related complications) for those in the lowest disposable income quartile using both methods. A back-of-the-envelope calculation suggests that the socioeconomic gradient would have been 45% larger in the absence of the insulin pump rollout.

Flora Stiftinger (University Linz), Chronic Diseases: Labor Market Participation and the Role of New Medications (148)

In this paper, we examine the impact of non-preventable, non-communicable chronic diseases. Using rich Austrian administrative data, we analyze the healthcare utilization and labor market participation of patients, comparing them to unaffected individuals of the same age. Healthcare expenditures increase sharply around the time of diagnosis and remain persistently high even five years later. Labor market participation decreases, with temporary increases in sick leave, but limited substitution with unemployment. Next, we examine the role of new medications for chronic diseases. Through a case study, we demonstrate that,

following the approval of a new drug, the employment probability of the treated group increases, while the control group remains unaffected.

Elisabetta De Cao (University of Bologna), Tracing the Genetic Footprints of the UK National Health Service (89)

The establishment of the UK National Health Service (NHS) in July 1948 was one of the most consequential health policy interventions of the twentieth century, providing universal and free access to medical care and substantially expanding maternal and infant health services. In this paper, we estimate the causal effect of the NHS introduction on early-life mortality and we test whether survival is selective. We adopt a regression discontinuity design under local randomization, comparing individuals born just before and just after July 1948. Leveraging newly digitized weekly death records, we document a significant decline in infant mortality following the introduction of the NHS, driven primarily by reductions in deaths from congenital conditions, and diarrhea. We then use polygenic indexes (PGIs), fixed at conception, to track changes in population composition, showing with UK Biobank data that cohorts born at or after the NHS exhibit higher PGIs associated with contextually-adverse traits (e.g., depression and COPD) and lower PGIs associated with contextually-valued traits (e.g., educational attainment and self-rated health), with effect sizes as large as 7.5% of a standard deviation. These results are robust to family-based designs and replicate in the English Longitudinal Study of Ageing and the UK Household Longitudinal Study. Effects are strongest in socioeconomically disadvantaged areas and among males. This novel evidence on the existence and magnitude of selective survival highlights how large-scale public policies can leave a persistent imprint on population composition and generate long-term survival biases.

Parallel Sessions B (15:00–16:30)

Labor market flexibility (V001)

Laura Houry (University Paris Dauphine-Psl), The Wage and Mobility Effects of Remote Work (382)

The shift to remote work, with roots predating Covid-19, marks a major transformation of labor markets. This paper investigates its medium-run impact on workers' labor market outcomes, exploiting plant-level variation in remote work agreements implemented between 2014 and 2017 in France. Using an event study design and rich administrative data, we find that access to remote work yields moderate wage increases and facilitates both occupational and geographical mobility. The associated rise in commuting distances suggests that remote work options alleviate job search constraints, allowing workers to seek higher-paying jobs. Our analysis further reveals that plant-level remote work agreements raise firm productivity, benefiting both incumbent and newly hired workers. Overall, our results underscore how remote work reshapes labor market trajectories through its effects on mobility, job search, and productivity.

Maëlle Stricot (Paris School of Economics), The Effects of Introducing Self-Organization in Home Care Services: Evidence from a Randomized Experiment (631)

The home-care sector is expanding rapidly worldwide but faces chronic labor shortages driven by difficult working conditions, low wages, and high turnover in a predominantly female workforce. Using a large-scale randomized controlled trial conducted in multiple home-care organizations across France, we estimate the causal effects of introducing self-organization in the home-care sector. In theory, self-organization could improve working conditions by granting care workers greater autonomy over scheduling, replacements, and care planning. Yet it may also increase administrative burdens and require constant availability, making its overall impact uncertain. We find that self-organization improves working conditions, job satisfaction, and mental health, and reduces worker turnover, while effects on care recipients are more limited. These results provide the first causal evidence that greater autonomy can strengthen retention in long-term care, with important policy implications for France and beyond amid rising demand due to population aging.

Ulrika Ahrsjö (Stockholm School of Economics), Pay or Performance? Retaining Emotionally Stable Police Officers. (275)

Growing evidence shows that 1) police officer performance differs by personal characteristics, and 2) many countries are struggling to retain officers. How do different types of officers respond to different retention strategies? We study this using detailed Swedish data that include officers' emotional stability (as measured in military enlistment assessments). Using geographic shocks to outside options, we show that higher relative pay increases retention, but especially so for less emotionally stable officers. Using exogenous manager turnover in the midst of organizational crisis, we show that more stable management also increases retention, particularly for more emotionally stable officers. These results suggest that strategies for increased officer retention can vary in their effects on the composition of the police force.

Mothers and the Labor Market (V002)

Lukas Riedel (ZEW Mannheim), Child Penalty Estimation and Mothers' Age at First Birth (280)

We show that the widespread approach to estimate the career costs of motherhood - so-called "child penalties" - is prone to produce biased results, as it pools first-time mothers of all ages without accounting for their differences in characteristics and outcomes. We propose a novel method building on the recent advances in the difference-in-differences literature to address this issue. Applied to German administrative data, our method yields 28 percent larger post-birth earnings losses than the conventional approach. We document meaningful effect heterogeneity by maternal age in both magnitude and interpretation, highlighting its key role in understanding the impact of motherhood.

Mara Buhmann (Institute For Employment Research), The Curse of (Not) Being Replaceable: The Role of Substitutability in Shaping the Child Penalty (325)

The child penalty can explain the still existent earnings gap between women and men. However, less is understood about the reasons behind the child penalty. Therefore, the aim of this paper is to investigate the mechanisms behind the child penalty by analysing on the role of mothers' substitutability to her co-workers. The firm's reaction to planned absences of mothers -- whether to increase working hours of co-workers or to hire new workers -- depends on the substitutability of the leaving mother: if there are less substitutes available at the firm, the firm is more likely to hire. This may have implications for the future career and earnings growth for mothers when returning to her old workplace. Using high-quality data from Germany and including mothers' substitutability as a continuous treatment in a difference-in-difference-in-differences child penalty estimation, the results indicate that if there are less substitutes available at a firm, the child penalty is significantly higher. The paper will also include analysis on mechanisms, whether mothers with a lower substitutability are more likely to be replaced with new hires at their current firm and if they are more likely to switch firms after returning to the labour market.

Luca Favero (University of St Andrews), Supporting Mothers Back to Work: Experimental Evidence on Employment, Fertility, and Child Outcomes (192)

Many advanced economies face persistently low fertility alongside rapid population ageing, raising concerns about economic sustainability and demographic balance. Addressing these challenges requires both sustained labor market participation among the working-age population and conditions that support childbearing. These objectives place women, and particularly mothers, at the center of the demographic debate, as motherhood remains a key turning point in employment trajectories and family formation. Using experimental evidence from an intervention targeting mothers who curtailed employment due to childcare responsibilities, the paper finds that improving work–family reconciliation can support mothers' labor market reintegration, promote investments in existing children, and, under conditions of greater stability, strengthen fertility desires.

Firms, Automation, and AI (T003)

Lauri Turkia (Tampere University), The Effect of Foreign Ownership of Firms on the Distribution of Wages (481)

This paper studies the effects of foreign ownership among Finnish firms on income distribution focusing on top incomes. In the Finnish income distribution the top 1% share increased significantly in the second half of 1990s. Around the same time, a previously very restrictive law on foreign ownership was abolished leading to a rapid increase in the foreign acquisitions of Finnish firms. We examine in firm-level event studies how the wave of acquisitions affect the distribution of wages and incomes within acquired firms. Our main findings indicate that on average wages increase following foreign acquisitions. More

interestingly, the top earners of the acquired firms gain the most in incomes. Second, we utilize a setting where we observe the board members of all firms in Finland. Often the same individuals are board members in multiple firms forming a connected set of firms. We study the spillover effects of the foreign acquisitions in this connected set of firms. Intriguingly, we find almost as large spillover effect in the connected firms as the direct foreign takeover effect. Moreover, we conduct an industry-level analysis using ownership in Swedish industries as an exposure measure for foreign ownership. This analysis establishes a relationship between the increase in top incomes and removal of restrictions for foreign ownership.

Elliott Weder (Erasmus School of Economics), Getting on Versus Moving up: Firms, Automation, and Changing Early-Career Ladders (377)

I examine how early-career progression changed during a time of rapid capital deepening and growing concerns about a “lost generation” of young people. I use linked population-wide administrative data from the Netherlands (2001–2024), which allows me to track every young person through their school-to-work transition. I show that the early-career ladder has become harder to get on because hiring declined, yet more rewarding for those who move up it. Returns to experience rose within narrowly defined worker types, which rules out compositional change as the driver and instead points to a common structural increase over time. I then provide evidence that joint capital (automation)-experience complementarity can rationalise the patterns I find: firm-level automation is associated with labour savings at early-career entry, but higher returns to experience for those workers who are eventually hired.

Christian Kagerl (Institute for Employment Research (iab)), The Adoption of Generative Artificial Intelligence by Establishments (387)

We study the adoption of generative artificial intelligence (genAI) by establishments using novel survey data linked to administrative social security records from Germany. By 2025, 24% of establishments had adopted genAI, with roughly half of this adoption occurring in 2024 alone. About half of adopters report positive expenditures on genAI in the preceding financial year. This rapid diffusion stands in sharp contrast to non-generative artificial intelligence (ngAI), which has been available for considerably longer but has been adopted by only 6% of establishments. Establishment size, ICT-sector affiliation, workforce skill, exporting status, and affiliation with a multi-establishment firm are important predictors of both genAI and ngAI adoption. In addition, genAI adoption is associated with higher pre-adoption labor productivity, larger wage premia, location in large cities, and younger establishment age, while collective bargaining coverage is associated with a lower probability of genAI adoption. All of these associations hold in multivariate regressions. Finally, we show that establishments that use genAI intensively are more likely to expect future employment growth, suggesting that genAI is viewed primarily as a productivity-enhancing technology that facilitates employment growth rather than as a substitute for labor at scale.

Drugs and Alcohol (T004)

Omar Martin Fieles-Ahmad (Ovgu Magdeburg), The Fentanyl Shock: Synthetic Opioids and the Supply of Organ Donors (536)

We study how the diffusion of illicit synthetic opioids affected the supply of deceased organ donors in the United States between 2012 and 2019. As fentanyl spread rapidly from east to west, it produced sharp, uneven increases in overdose mortality across states. We first exploit this diffusion using a state-level instrumental-variables design that interacts longitude with time, measuring fentanyl exposure using mortality and drug seizure data. We then implement a complementary difference-in-differences design at the transplant-center level that compares regions with early versus delayed fentanyl entry arising from heroin-market segmentation. Both approaches show that fentanyl exposure caused large increases in overdose-driven donor supply and transplanted organs, revealing how a lethal epidemic reshaped the availability of transplantable organs.

Alexander Ahammer (Johannes Kepler University Linz), Risky Business: Pricing and Participation in Illicit Drug Markets (291)

Illegal markets are economically important but difficult to study because they are deliberately concealed. We analyze one setting where key market objects are observable at high frequency: the online market for illicit drugs. We first develop a simple model of a drug vendor who sets prices subject to two distinct risks: holding risk (the risk of being caught while holding inventory) and exchange-rate risk (because transactions are settled in bitcoin). The model predicts that higher holding risk induces vendors with market power to cut prices to sell quickly, whereas higher exchange-rate risk shifts prices in the opposite direction, at least for risk-seeking vendors. We then take the model to scraped data from three major darknet markets, using darknet market-related police arrests and short-run bitcoin volatility as plausibly exogenous shifters for these risks. Consistent with the model, prices fall with shocks to holding risk and rise with exchange-rate risk. We also show that these shocks affect market participation through vendor entry and exit. Our results imply that law enforcement pressure can have unintended short-run effects, triggering price cuts that expand supply, while also shifting market composition toward more risk-tolerant dealers who are less deterred by law enforcement in the first place.

Arnaldur Stefansson (University of Iceland), Assessing the Impact of Alcohol Sales Restrictions on Alcohol Consumption (678)

We study the effects of alcohol sales restrictions and alcohol taxation on alcohol sales and, by implication, consumption. Our focus is on government alcohol monopolies in settings where off-monopoly sales are permitted under restricted conditions. We exploit two major reforms that relaxed retail sales restrictions, together with variation in alcohol tax rates. Our data consist of monthly product- and store-level sales from state alcohol monopolies in Finland and Sweden, as well as from private grocery store chains in both countries, covering

roughly a decade. This rich panel allows us to examine the impact of the reforms on total alcohol sales and to characterize substitution and spillover patterns across product categories and retail channels. We find that sales of alcohol products newly permitted in grocery stores increased to roughly 500% of their pre-reform sales levels within the state monopolies. The reforms also generated substantial substitution across product categories and between monopoly and grocery store sales. Once these substitution effects are accounted for, the net effect of the 2018 reform on total alcohol consumption is negligible, despite the large direct increase in grocery store sales. We further document spillover effects to alcohol categories not directly targeted by the reform. Preliminary evidence from the 2024 reform, which further relaxed sales restrictions, is consistent with these findings. Overall, our results suggest that alcohol sales restrictions generate welfare losses while delivering limited reductions in aggregate alcohol consumption.

Working from Home and Hybrid Work (U006)

Marco Alberto De Benedetto (University of Calabria), Juggling Work and Family: Labor Market Effects of Remote Work on Parents with School-Aged Children (462)

We study the labor market consequences of Italy's statutory right granting parents of children under age twelve priority access to work-from-home (WFH) arrangements. Using population-wide administrative employer–employee data and exploiting the sharp age-based eligibility threshold, we identify causal effects through a regression discontinuity design. Beginning with the COVID-19 pandemic—when remote work became widespread—priority access increases wages of eligible mothers employed in high-WFH-intensity firms by 1.6–2.3 percent. No effects are detected in pre-pandemic years, in workplaces that never adopted remote work, or in firms where WFH remained marginal. We further document increases in paid weeks and paid days, consistent with adjustments along the intensive margin of labor supply, while detecting no significant changes in full-time employment status, occupational promotions, or sickness absences. Heterogeneity analyses reveal that wage gains are concentrated among mothers in non-manual occupations and in firms with greater technological and organizational readiness—including smaller and younger establishments, firms with superior broadband infrastructure, and those located in Northern Italy. We observe no significant effects for fathers.

Pradyun Rame Mehrotra (Indian Institute of Management - Bangalore), Work-from-Home Revolution: Enhancing Women's Participation in STEM (467)

Women remain underrepresented in STEM occupations despite sustained efforts to expand access to these roles and improve retention. We ask whether increased work from-home (WFH) opportunities raise young women's participation in STEM roles. Leveraging data from Current Population Survey (CPS), Survey of Working Arrangements and Attitudes (SWAA), and job postings offering WFH, and drawing on insights from human capital theory and occupation selection models, we implement two Difference-in-Differences designs that

exploit exogenous occupation-level variation in WFH adoption induced by the COVID-19 pandemic. We find that high WFH adoption increases the probability of STEM employment among young women by 2.43 percentage points, a 13.6 percent rise relative to the pre-pandemic baseline. This result is robust to alternative specifications, treatment definitions, and matched sample checks. We also find that the impact varies across STEM sub-fields and increases with the intensity of WFH adoption. As such, the results suggests that the effect operates primarily through reduced skill loss enabled by stronger labor market attachment under WFH. These findings highlight WFH as a scalable strategy to improve female retention and advance labor force outcomes for women in STEM occupations.

Dzsamila Vonnák (ELTE KRTK), Stay Home, Return to Work, or Go for Another Baby? The Role of Working from Home in the Decisions After Childbearing (245)

In this article, we examine how the possibility of working from home is associated with labor market opportunities and subsequent childbearing decisions among women with young children. We model these two outcomes as simultaneous decisions using competing hazard models. In addition, we analyze the timing of these decisions within the four years following childbirth. Our results provide strong evidence that women with the possibility of working from home have a 120% higher probability of giving birth and a 51% higher probability of returning to work one year after childbirth, compared with women without this possibility. Our results are robust in various alternative specifications and similar in specific subgroups.

Labor Market Shocks (U1)

Leonie Wicht (Institute For Employment Research (iab)), Unintended Transitions: Employment Outcomes Following Firm Closures During VET (54)

Vocational education and training (VET) plays a central role in the school-to-work transition in Germany, yet a substantial share of apprentices experiences training interruptions. Estimating the causal effects of such disruptions is challenging due to endogenous selection into dropout. This study exploits training firm closures as unexpected shocks that displace apprentices during VET. Using administrative data covering the universe of German apprentices between 2008 and 2022 and a matched event-study design, I estimate the effects of displacement on early-career labor-market outcomes over eight years. The results show that displacement during VET leads to small but persistent earnings losses. Average earnings from regular employment decline by up to 770€ per year (about 4.5 percent) in the medium run and by roughly 2 percent in later years. These effects are modest relative to displacement from regular employment, as most displaced apprentices successfully complete VET at a new firm. A decomposition analysis shows that earnings losses are driven primarily by apprentices who drop out after displacement, while displaced graduates experience only minor penalties. Additional analyses document increased occupational and regional mobility following displacement. Overall, the findings highlight the protective role of institutional support in the

German VET system and contribute to the literature on job displacement, educational disruptions, and early-career labor-market dynamics.

Meike Rudolph (Kiel University & Institute for Employment Research (IAB)), Local Labor Market Effects of Global Value Chain Disruptions — Evidence from Another China Shock (358)

We investigate local labor market effects of global value chain (GVC) disruptions during COVID-19 using detailed spatio-temporal data on short-time work and employment in Germany and the OECD Inter-Country Input-Output tables. To identify the effects, we employ a matched difference-in-differences setup with regional GVC integration as continuous treatment. While overall GVC integration does not have a significant impact, we find that short-time work was used more intensively in regions with above-average GVC integration with China. However, these effects seem to be temporary and decline quickly during the second half of 2020. Establishment-level survey data indicate that the latter might be due to a re-organization of GVCs in response to the disruptions.

Lukas Wilzek (Institute for Employment Research (IAB)), When the Boys Are Gone: The Long-Term Career Effects of a Female Labor Supply Shock (164)

This paper analyzes how changes in the relative supply of female labor affect women's long-term career outcomes. Our identification strategy exploits a unique combination of local schooling reforms and mandatory military service that created a temporary, region-specific oversupply of women in the labor market. Using detailed register data, we track women's careers over more than two decades. Our results show that treated women were more likely to enter male-dominated occupations and remain in them throughout their careers. In the short run, women's earnings rose primarily through stronger labor market attachment in male-dominated occupations, whereas wage gains were modest. These advantages fade in the long run as women enter motherhood and substantially reduce their working hours. We do not find effects on fertility or labor mobility.

Teachers and Student Skills (U3)

Jerry Montonen (Aalto University), Shaping Young Minds: The Effects of Teachers on Socio-Emotional Skills (259)

Socio-emotional skills are key drivers of wages and overall career success, with increasing returns in recent decades. This paper estimates the impact of teachers on socio-emotional skills and the labor market returns of these effects. In the first part of the paper, I demonstrate that teachers play a significant role in shaping students' socio-emotional skills, as measured by a standardized personality test from which I extract indices of extroversion and conscientiousness. A one standard deviation improvement in both extroversion and conscientiousness teacher value-added leads to an approximately 0.07 standard deviation increase in both of these measures for their students. Test score value-added only weakly correlates with extroversion and conscientiousness value-added, which implies that current

test score-based measures of teacher effectiveness fail to capture critical dimensions of teacher quality. Next, I show that these skills have large labor market returns using earnings data covering all graduates. Exposure to a one standard deviation higher conscientiousness value-added teacher leads to 1.2% higher earnings between ages 30-35, twice the earnings effect of test score value-added. In the final part of the paper, I provide suggestive evidence showing that teacher university training correlates with value-added, suggesting that we can train more effective teachers.

Bart Golsteyn (Maastricht University), Early Skills and Adult Life Satisfaction (188)

One of the most prominent indicators of a country's education quality is students' performance in early language and math skills. Evidence shows that these skills are important as they predict outcomes like educational attainment and wages. This paper examines whether early skills also predict generic measures of life quality and whether these patterns persist over time. Using data from the 1970 British Cohort Study, we investigate the relationship between early skills and life satisfaction across adulthood (ages 29-46). We find a strong, positive association between early skills and life satisfaction. The association between math skills and life satisfaction remains stable throughout adulthood, while that of reading skills diminishes. Early skills are particularly linked to satisfaction in the domains of health, financial management, and emotional stability in adulthood.

Marie Paul (University of Duisburg-Essen), The Effects of After-School Programs on Secondary School Achievement and Non-Cognitive Skills (361)

This paper studies the effects of after-school programs (ASPs) in German secondary schools on adolescents' achievement and non-cognitive skills. We combine two complementary approaches. First, using ten years of state-wide standardized test data from North Rhine-Westphalia, we examine the impact of school-level ASP adoption on 8th-grade students' math, reading, and listening competencies. Event studies indicate that school-level ASP adoptions do not affect results on standardized tests. Second, we use individual-level data from the Socio-Economic Panel to analyze the effects of ASP attendance on grades and a broad set of non-cognitive skills. To address selection into ASPs, we use an instrumental variable approach, leveraging spatial and temporal variation in local ASP availability induced by investment programs. IV estimates for grades and non-cognitive skills are near zero - though with large standard errors - and we find little effect heterogeneity. Across both approaches, we find no systematic evidence that ASPs improve student outcomes.

Youth Crime and its Effects (U4)

Katharina Drescher (University of Passau), Public Festivities, Crime and Health: Evidence from Germany (215)

Collective celebrations are a universal feature of social life, yet their social costs remain poorly understood. We provide systematic evidence on the effects of public festivities on crime and health using novel data on the near-universe of German folk festivals linked to administrative records on crime, road accidents, and hospitalizations. Exploiting variation in festival timing and location across municipalities, we find that crimes increase by 17 percent on festival days, with effects of up to 51 percent for violent crimes. We provide evidence consistent with alcohol consumption as a key mechanism. A back-of-the-envelope calculation suggests that crime-related externalities alone amount to roughly € 146 million per year in our study region, raising questions about public spending priorities and financing of safety expenditures.

Helmut Rainer (Lmu Munich), Birthright Citizenship and Youth Crime (63)

This paper studies the impact of birthright citizenship on youth crime. We leverage a German reform which automatically granted birthright citizenship to eligible immigrant children born in Germany after January 1, 2000 and administrative crime data from three federal states. We find that immigrant youth who acquired citizenship at birth are substantially less likely to engage in criminal activity, with estimates indicating a 70% reduction in crime. These results are particularly relevant in light of ongoing debates in the U.S. about abolishing birthright citizenship. Our findings suggest that inclusive citizenship policies can reduce crime and its associated costs, which in turn could strengthen social cohesion.

Sexual Harassment and Intimate Partner Violence (U5)

Sébastien Fontenay (Universidad de Alcalá), Coercive Control After Childbirth: Intimate Partner Violence in Sub-Saharan Africa (129)

This paper proposes a coercive time-appropriation model where fathers use Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) to reallocate mothers' time toward childcare, reducing their labor productivity. Using DHS data from 28 Sub-Saharan African countries and a pseudo-event study design, we find childbirth increases IPV by 30%, driven by physical and emotional abuse. This effect intensifies with higher partner education and in ethnic groups with historically strong female roles, indicating backlash. Violence is mitigated where political accountability is high or social sanctions are strong. As suggested by our model, mothers experiencing IPV face persistent employment declines. The findings identify motherhood as a "window of danger," suggesting effective policy must mitigate childcare burdens for women, and increase accountability for perpetrators.

Miriam Wüst (University of Copenhagen), Sexual Harassment in Tertiary Education (390)

We study the prevalence, causes, and consequences of sexual harassment in Danish tertiary education by combining large-scale survey data from the Danish Study Environment Survey with comprehensive administrative registers covering educational trajectories, mental health care utilization, and early labor market outcomes. We document substantial prevalence of sexual harassment among students, with pronounced heterogeneity across gender, age, and programs: around 14 percent of female and 10 percent of male students report harassment within their current study program. Exploiting idiosyncratic cohort-to-cohort variation on a granular program-level, we identify we gender minority status as a systemic causal determinant behind victimization risk for female students: a 10 percentage point increase in the share of opposite-gender peers raises reported harassment among women by 10–12 percent relative to the mean, with no corresponding effect for men. We document that harassment experiences are consequential: they are systematically associated with adverse outcomes for both women and men, including higher dropout risks, deteriorating mental health, and weaker early labor market attachment. Taken together, our findings indicate that sexual harassment constitutes a structural risk in tertiary education with economically meaningful consequences. They suggest that sexual harassment may contribute to self-reinforcing patterns of gender segregation that originate in education and persist into the labor market.

Dan Anderberg (Royal Holloway University of London), Intimate Partner Violence and Children's Human Capital (450)

We use a dynamic latent factor model to study how exposure to intimate partner violence (IPV) affects young children's accumulation of cognitive and socioemotional skills. The model allows for both a direct effect of exposure as well as indirect effects via changes in parental investments and mother's mental health. IPV has adverse effects on both skills, with more immediate and larger effects for socio-emotional skills and with the skill deficits growing in exposure duration. The indirect effects dominate for both skills. Early interventions that support parental investment and mother's mental health have potential for offsetting the adverse IPV-effects but only if subsequent IPV exposure is eliminated.

Management (U6)

David Macdonald (The University of British Columbia Okanagan), The Impacts of Romantic Relationships with the Boss (282)

Romantic relationships in the workplace are common, but those between managers and subordinates have increasingly drawn scrutiny. Using administrative data on the universe of cohabiting couples in Finland, we examine the career implications of starting or ending a personal relationship with a workplace manager and the spillovers of these relationships on the broader workforce. An event study design reveals that entering a relationship with a manager increases the subordinate's earnings by 6%, but breaking up triggers an abrupt 18%

earnings decline. We also find that these relationships generate spillovers: retention of other workers declines by six percentage points, with effects concentrated in workplaces where subordinates experience greater earnings gains. Our findings highlight both the private benefits and organizational costs of hierarchical workplace relationships.

Luis Vasconcelos (University of Technology Sydney), Managing Loyalty in Hierarchical Organizations (212)

Conventional wisdom regards employee loyalty to leadership as a virtue, but in hierarchical organizations it can be a double-edged sword. Excessive loyalty of middle management towards the top can weaken frontline workers' incentives. We show that loyalty can be managed through well-designed communication and decision-making protocols. In the optimal contract, either the middle manager is induced to align more with the bottom, or the top may directly intervene to motivate the workers. We highlight how the middle manager's loyalty to the organization interacts with his loyalty to top management, and how his personal characteristics affect the management style within the organization.

Giuseppe Moscelli (University of Surrey), Do Changes in Management Practices Reduce Hospital Waiting Times? Theory and Evidence from a Workforce Retention Programme (694)

Long before the pandemic, increasingly longer waiting times for hospital treatment in English NHS has been a challenge, directly affecting patient outcomes, service efficiency, and overall healthcare quality. In this paper, we develop a theoretical model that links patients' waiting times for planned treatment to hospital nurses' retention, and postulate the possibility of a virtuous loop between these two variables that can be ignited by higher managerial quality. We test these hypotheses by assessing the effects of a national workforce policy on waiting times, leveraging a synthetic difference-in-difference analysis using detailed patient records for planned care admissions to English NHS hospitals. In line with the predictions, our results suggest that the policy had indeed improved nurses' retention, while also leading to reductions in average waiting times for planned knee replacement surgery and shortens waiting times for all planned procedures. Our results highlight the potential benefits of workforce stability and managerial improvements on healthcare delivery.

Friday, 12th of June

Parallel Sessions C (9:30–11:00)

Worker Mobility (V001)

Kristina Schüpbach (ETH Zurich), Job Mobility and Wage Effects of Seasonal Guest Worker Programs: Evidence from Switzerland (369)

Seasonal guest worker programs are widely used to address short-term labor shortages, yet little is known about how the job mobility restrictions embedded in these programs affect migrant workers' labor market outcomes. This paper studies Switzerland's former seasonal worker program, exploiting plausibly exogenous variation in the timing of eligibility for a residence permit driven by workers' initial arrival dates. Using population-wide administrative data and two complementary difference-in-differences designs, I estimate the causal effect of relaxing mobility restrictions on job mobility, employment, and earnings. Receiving a residence permit leads to large increases in job mobility, particularly within seasons and toward higher-paying jobs and industries. Residency also reduces employment seasonality, raising annual employment and earnings primarily through increased employment continuity rather than immediate wage gains. Earnings conditional on employment stabilize but do not fully converge, consistent with gradual improvements in job matches and outside options.

Tuomo Virkola (VATT, Helsinki GSE), Worker Mobility Restrictions: Evidence from Residence Permit Extensions (451)

Outside options give workers bargaining power in the labor market, but most governments limit migrant workers' job mobility. Yet, the implications of these restrictions for migrants' labor market outcomes are not well understood. We use individual-level information on mobility restrictions to study how their removal affects migrants' labor market trajectories. We show that the mobility restrictions imposed by temporary work visas are binding, and that their removal allows workers to move to better jobs. Migrants are more likely to leave low-paying firms and to invest in language training and general education. Our results provide evidence relevant for the design of policies governing migrant mobility restrictions.

Pia Heckl (ifo Institute, LMU Munich), Reintegrating Older Long-Term Unemployed Workers: The Impact of Temporary Job Guarantees (313)

Long-term unemployment among older workers is particularly difficult to overcome. We study the impacts of a large-scale job guarantee program that offered up to two years of fully subsidized employment to long-term unemployed individuals aged 50 and above. Using a sharp age-based discontinuity in eligibility, we find that participation increased regular, unsubsidized employment by 43 percentage points two years after the program ended. The gains are driven by transitions into new firms and industries, rather than continued subsidized

employment, and we find no evidence of displacement effects for non-participants or spillovers to family members. The program had no measurable short-run health effects.

Mental Health (V002)

Antonia Entorf (University of Bonn), Mental Health Challenges Among Teachers: The Role of the Workplace (395)

Teacher mental health is an increasingly salient issue with societal and economic implications for educational quality and student outcomes. This study examines the role of schools as workplaces in generating heterogeneity in teachers' mental health. Using comprehensive population-wide Danish register data linking teachers to schools, students, and health care utilization, we document large and persistent differences in mental health outcomes across schools. We attribute these differences to causal workplace effects rather than selection, leveraging a quasi-experimental mover design: teachers' mental health deteriorates after moving to schools with worse mental health environments, with effects unfolding over the subsequent years. These effects are robust to coinciding life events, such as childbirth or changes in cohabitation status. Auxiliary analyses based on variation over time in student composition find that higher shares of female students and students from higher-SES households are associated with improved teacher mental health of teachers. Yet, observable characteristics explain only a small share of variation, suggesting that unobserved dimensions of workplace quality, such as leadership and organizational climate, play a central role as potential drivers of heterogeneity in teacher mental health.

Ben Etheridge (University of Essex), Mental Health and Firm Pay Premiums (554)

Unravelling the link between income and mental health remains a central issue. We investigate how firm-specific wage premiums affect worker mental health using Dutch administrative data linking employer-employee records to prescription drug use over 2006–2022. We find that higher firm pay, estimated from AKM firm components, are associated with lower use of both anti-anxiety and anti-depressant medications. This relationship is attenuated in high-stress industries, consistent with compensating differentials for workplace disamenities. To establish causality we employ an event study analysis around job moves, motivated by a job ladder model. This shows that, for the bulk of workers, mental health changes follow job transitions. However, a minority of workers experiencing large wage declines show elevated medication use before moving, suggesting two-way causality where stressed workers select into lower-paying, less demanding jobs.

Mette Gørtz (University of Copenhagen), Child Disability and Effects on Sibling Mental Health (151)

We investigate how a younger sibling's physical disability affects sibling mental health using Danish register data on families with three or more children. Difference-in-difference models compare first- and second-born children when the third-born does or does not have a

disability. Use of mental health services increases 13% among second-born children, with a 23% increase in psychiatric visits and an 18% increase in use of psychiatric medications. Effects are concentrated in households where the mother has less than high school and persist after conditioning on child test scores. Parental responses suggest that caregiving demands, stress, and strained resources are potential mechanisms.

Faith and Religion (T003)

Antonio Laplana (Wageningen University), Religious Institutions and Long-Term Development: The Case of Catholic Missions in Colonial Mexico (160)

How do religious institutions shape long-term development outcomes? This study investigates the long-term impacts of Catholic missions in colonial Mexico on development, focusing on the differential effects of Mendicant and Jesuit orders established between the 16th and 18th centuries. Using an instrumental variable approach, I exploit the historical placement of these missions to identify their causal effects on contemporary poverty and social inequality outcomes. Mendicant missions, which focused on educating the indigenous population and reducing inequality, led to sustained gains across the entire income distribution and significant reductions in extreme poverty. In contrast, Jesuit missions, which targeted educating the colonial elite, contributed to increased inequality, as evidenced by a higher Gini coefficient, while not affecting poverty levels. Furthermore, the results suggest that agrarian reform in the first half of the twentieth century may have been a key mechanism explaining the positive economic outcomes associated with the Mendicant orders. These findings highlight the long-term impact of colonial religious institutions on economic development and social inequality in Mexico.

Sofiana Sinani (CERGE-EI), Faith, Interrupted: Identity and Behavior After Forced Atheism (457)

Governments have long intervened in national identity formation, yet it remains unclear whether such efforts truly reshape values or primarily induce compliance. This paper studies Albania's 1967 Cultural Revolution, when the Communist regime criminalized religion nationwide and promoted a secular "pure Albanian" identity. We exploit this reform as a nationwide shock to religiosity and examine its effects on public and private expressions of identity, values, and socioeconomic behavior. Combining administrative and survey data and applying a residualized event-study design, we show that religious names declined by 50–150%, while secular Albanian names increased by 50%. These shifts were largest in more illiterate districts, consistent with stronger exposure to state control, yet substantial resistance persisted: religious minorities were more likely to continue religious naming practices. Survey evidence reveals large declines in religious participation and upbringing among those born after the reform, but no change in belief in God or broader political values. This pattern suggests that the reform affected observable behavior and identity signaling, but no deeper ideological shifts.

Angus Holford (University of Essex), Absences from School and Educational Outcomes. Religious Observance Among Ethnic Minority Students (80)

This paper estimates the causal effect of school absences on the educational attainment of religiously observant ethnic minority students in England. We exploit exogenous variation in whether major Muslim and Hindu festivals fall on school days, generating absences unrelated to underlying achievement. Using administrative data and a two-stage least squares design, we show that festival-induced absences have no detectable effects in primary school but significantly reduce secondary students' English attainment and the probability of achieving five 'good' GCSEs. The estimated impacts are considerably larger than those found for general student populations, highlighting substantial heterogeneity in how abs

Long Run Impacts (T004)

Andy Dickerson (University of Sheffield, UK), The Long Shadow of Persistent Childhood Economic Disadvantage (271)

This paper investigates the long-term impact of persistent childhood economic disadvantage on labour market outcomes. We construct a novel measure of persistent disadvantage, leveraging Free School Meals (FSM) eligibility and neighbourhood characteristics throughout compulsory schooling using census data on individuals attending state schools in England. We document a steep socio-economic gradient in earnings across this Index of Childhood Disadvantage (ICD), with those having lived in the most advantaged neighbourhoods throughout their school years already earning around 50 percent more, on average, at age 25 than those who had been eligible for FSM throughout their schooling. Around two-thirds of this earnings gap is mediated for by educational attainment during school and the very different pathways taken through post-compulsory education and into the labour market across the ICD, but significant differences remain unexplained. Finally, our analysis reveals a systematic earnings penalty for Black men across the entire distribution of childhood disadvantage, whereas Asian women typically out-earn their White counterparts. The legacy of childhood disadvantage reflected in the socio-economic gradient in labour market outcomes highlights the need for targeted interventions to support children from more disadvantaged backgrounds throughout their educational journey and beyond.

Timo Hener (Aarhus University), How Wind Turbines Affect Communities: Evidence on Health, Productivity, and Residential Sorting (38)

Wind turbines play an important role in the green transition towards a pollution-free generation of electricity. Yet, the deployment of new wind turbines faces increasing local and political opposition. The public discourse routinely goes beyond wind turbines' established negative impact on house prices. However, evidence on how residents react to new turbines and whether human health and labor market outcomes are affected remains limited. We study how industrial-scale onshore wind turbines affect nearby communities in Denmark, combining geo-coded information on all wind turbines installed after 1995 with 25 years of

administrative full-population data. Exploiting the staggered timing of wind turbine establishments in an event-study framework allowing for heterogeneous treatment effects, we estimate the impact on neighborhood composition at the address level, and on mental health and labor market outcomes at the individual level. We find small negative effects on the occupancy of houses nearby large turbines, indicating a decrease in attractiveness. However, we detect no meaningful impacts on mental health, productivity, or the socio-economic composition of neighborhoods. Overall, our evidence does not indicate large adverse health effects from proximity of wind turbines, but it is consistent with local disamenities.

Derrick Xu (), Only in My Backyard: The Effect of Flood Exposure on Environmental Behavior (51)

Does exposure to climate shocks make people behave more pro-environmentally? I use precise residential locations to identify people exposed to floods and analyze a decade of real-world donation records from around 90,000 donors in England, along with longitudinal surveys. I show that people become more likely to donate to environmental charities and support the Green Party, after experiencing a flood that directly affects their own postcode. I also find that they are more likely to reassess their own environmental efforts as not enough following such an experience. However, exposure to floods affecting close neighbors does not lead to similar changes, indicating an "only in my backyard" phenomenon: on average, people become more pro-environment only when personally affected. Further, I show that people with strong universalist values do increase their green donations following neighboring floods. This suggests that the lack of response is driven by those with weak universalist values, who typically care less about global challenges.

Intergenerational Transmission of Attitudes and Aspirations (U006)

Angelina Nazarova (University of Essex), Ethnic Roots of Risk Attitudes: The Impact of Ancestral Lifestyles on Risk Taking Behaviour (190)

This paper studies the role of ancestry in shaping risk attitudes and risky behaviour. I examine two spatially and culturally distant lifestyles: nomadic and sedentary. Using historical ethnographic atlases combined with modern data on risk behaviour, I exploit a novel instrument specification - initial biogeographic conditions. I find that having nomadic ancestry increases the willingness to take risks and prompts riskier health behaviour, such as smoking and neglecting contraception. Looking at different specifications and including a wide range of controls, this study shows that ancestral lifestyles partially explain within-country risk heterogeneity.

Christina Felfe (Universität Konstanz), The Impact of Perceived Pressure on Students' Occupational Aspirations (727)

This paper tests for parental and peer pressure as a driver of students' occupational aspirations and an ultimate mechanism behind the gender gap in STEM occupations. To this end, we conduct a large-scale field experiment among 2,840 secondary school students in Germany, where we exogenously vary the visibility of students' career plans to parents and peers. We find that visibility reinforces gender-stereotypical choices, with parental pressure nearly doubling the STEM gender gap. Using a structural model, we show that perceived pressure dominates in early school grades (as early as sixth grade), while internalized beliefs about STEM occupations grow in importance later. Our findings highlight the need for early interventions that engage parents and account for peer dynamics.

Bilge Erten (Northeastern University), Understanding and Breaking the Intergenerational Transmission of Gender-Based Violence (207)

Using administrative data from Sweden, this paper provides the first large-scale estimates on the intergenerational transmission of gender-based violence and evidence on how this cycle can be broken. We show that sons of fathers suspected of gender-based violence are more than twice as likely to become suspected perpetrators, and daughters exposed to violent fathers are almost twice as likely to partner with violent men. These patterns persist after controlling for rich demographic, socioeconomic, and neighborhood characteristics. We then examine whether removing abusive fathers from the household disrupts this transmission. Although separations generate sizable and persistent income losses, differencing against comparable non-violent households reveals that father removal significantly reduces both sons' perpetration and daughters' victimization risks in adulthood. Family fixed-effects estimates further show that removal of a violent father before age 11 yields larger protective effects, particularly for sons. Finally, using a judge-IV design, we find that quasi-random removal of abusive fathers reduces the intergenerational cycle of violence by reducing the perpetration risk among sons separated from abusive fathers in their formative ages. Together, these results indicate that gender-based violence is a learned behavior developed over childhood and that reducing exposure to abusive fathers can meaningfully weaken its intergenerational persistence.

Gender Gaps at the Top (U1)

Mark Van Der Meijden (Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam), Measuring and Decomposing the Gender Gap in Wage Negotiations: Evidence from Expatriates in the Netherlands (498)

This study quantifies the contribution of gender differences in wage negotiations to the gender wage gap. To isolate the importance of wage negotiations for earnings, we exploit a substantial negative income shock among mid- and high-earning migrants in the Netherlands once their tax benefits (the "30%-rule") expire. Expiration occurs after 5 to 10 years since arrival, and reduces net income often by at least €10,000 annually, generating a strong incentive to renegotiate the wage. We estimate that men experience an average wage increase that is 0.6–1.5 percentage points higher than that of women. The difference is

particularly pronounced among higher earners. Using an Oaxaca-Blinder decomposition applied to the wage increase, we find that the negotiation gap is explained by gender differences in income levels, marital status, and industry, and to a smaller extent by country of origin, collective bargaining coverage, firm size, and homeownership; once we account for these factors, the remaining unexplained negotiation gap becomes negligible. This points to two key mechanisms: i) wage inequality: those with higher wages are able to negotiate larger wage jumps, and ii) mobility constraints: family-related ties limit outside options and thus bargaining position.

Hanna Brosch (Technical University of Munich), Gender Gaps in Preferences for Leadership Tasks (173)

Women remain underrepresented in leadership roles. This study investigates gender differences in preferences for two core leadership tasks – team and project responsibility – and how they contribute to this gap. Using a discrete choice experiment with 2,629 German employees, I estimate willingness-to-pay (WTP) for leadership tasks and compare these to WTP for other job attributes. On average, women are willing to forgo 5.3% of their wage to avoid project responsibility and 6% to avoid team responsibility. I document marked gender gaps in preferences for these tasks: Men’s WTP to avoid project and team responsibilities is lower by 2.3 and 2.7 percentage points, respectively. While task preferences vary with career aspirations, competitiveness, and family preferences, these factors do not fully account for the gender gap in task preferences. Leadership task preferences explain about half of the observed gender gap in leadership roles, suggesting that task-specific preferences are an important driver of gender disparities in leadership.

Sissel Jensen (Norwegian School of Economics), Elite Women: Decomposing Success (666)

We study which characteristics differentiate the small group of women who reach the top of the earnings distribution by their mid-30s. Using Norwegian administrative registers for cohorts 1983–1988, we define “top-10” as women in the top decile of the annual earnings distribution at age 35. We construct sequential matched control samples (5-nearest neighbors) that cumulatively equalize: (i) family background (parental income and education, birth region); (ii) high-school GPA; (iii) tertiary education (degree level and broad field); (iv) first-job characteristics (occupation, sector and skills); (v) fertility (age at first birth and number of children); and (vi) firm switches. We then estimate age-specific differences in earnings profiles from 20–35 for the different matched control groups. The sequence quantifies how much of the earnings gap between the top decile and the rest is associated with background and measured talent, how much is accounted for by education, and what remains after equalizing fertility and first-job placement. We replicate the decomposition for men and compare.

Class Rank and Education Tracking (U3)

Agueda Solis Alonso (University of Trento), *The Good, the Bad, and the Average: class Rank and the Transition to the Labor Market* (284)

Using university administrative data matched with census student surveys, this paper studies the effects of class rank on job preferences, labor market prospects, and early career outcomes. I find that being top of the class affects career prospects and increases academic orientation, pushing graduates to pursue further education and to postpone labor market entry. Quantitatively, a one-decile increase in class rank (roughly 2–4 positions) reduces labor market participation by 1.4 percentage points, raises PhD enrollment by 0.6 percentage points, and lowers reservation wages by 0.8%. Higher-ranked students are willing to accept worse pecuniary conditions in exchange for jobs that align better with their studies, suggesting a role for intrinsic motivation. Effects are stronger for males and peer groups with higher average ability, indicating that peer competition influences rank effects. The weaker response of female graduates to relative rank signals also helps explain gender gaps in transitions into PhD studies and early-stage research careers.

Tommaso Sartori (Monash University), *Conduct and Consequences: Disruptiveness Rank and Academic Outcomes* (303)

We document a previously unknown mechanism in the education production function: Ordinal behavioral rank exerts a lasting causal influence on student behavior and subsequent educational outcomes. Leveraging variation in student disruptiveness distributions across more than 250 high-school classrooms, we estimate the effect of a student's disruptiveness rank in high school, holding absolute disruptiveness constant. A higher disruptive rank sharply increases later disruptive behavior, reduces academic achievement, and lowers university admission rates—even though high-school teachers and peers have no information about students' prior disruptive rank. These findings reveal that rank-based identity formation and behavioral expectations persist across educational transitions, generating long-term impacts on both discipline and human capital.

Dinand Webbink (Erasmus School of Economics), *Human Judgement and Algorithmic Prediction in Education Tracking* (184)

Teacher beliefs about student academic potential determine the allocative efficiency of educational systems that use teachers to sort students into tracks. Yet we know little about the structure of these beliefs—how they evolve, how they differ across teachers, and their relationship to student outcomes. We study 55,000+ predictions made by Dutch primary school teachers about eventual secondary school tracks at four ages: six, eight, ten, and twelve. Teachers compress predictions toward the middle track. More striking is the heterogeneity: teachers vary substantially in how they weight over-versus under-placement. In turn, the system implements no coherent policy - the same student is predicted to enter different tracks when assigned to different teachers. Machine learning algorithms trained on

the same observables substantially outperform teachers—achieving 75 percent accuracy versus 49 percent at age twelve—while applying a uniform standard. When teachers and algorithms disagree, algorithms are correct far more often: fewer than 7 percent of teachers outperform the algorithm in disagreement cases, suggesting teachers add noise rather than valuable soft information. These findings show that algorithms can implement a chosen error tradeoff more consistently than heterogeneous human judges, at least with respect to test-based outcomes.

Marriage Markets (U4)

Tom Potoms (University of Antwerp), Public Insurance and Marital Outcomes: Evidence from the Affordable Care Act's Medicaid Expansions (199)

Public insurance may disincentivize marriage, but for whom? Using a search-based model of the marriage market we show that those with a high expected financial surplus from marriage respond more to public insurance, as it provides an outside option against financial risk. We then empirically test this prediction using the American Community Survey. More precisely, we find that an increased likelihood of Medicaid eligibility owing to the Affordable Care Act reduces marriage rates, particularly among people with higher education levels. These findings suggest a new hypothesis for the marriage gap across the socioeconomic spectrum: a larger material surplus from marriage increases willingness to marry, even with lower match quality.

Eva Raiber (Aix Marseille University AMSE), Fertility Constraints and Marriage Outcomes (265)

Population policies are typically evaluated through their effects on fertility. This paper studies whether policy-imposed fertility constraints also affect marriage outcomes. We exploit the relaxation of China's one-child policy in a context of a highly male-biased sex ratio, where exemptions from the one-child restriction previously allowed some groups to have two children. Using province-level policy variation and individual data from 2010–2018, we show that after the policy relaxation, men who were previously eligible for a second child experienced a decline in marriage probabilities relative to previously constrained men, while women's marriage outcomes were unaffected. The effects are concentrated in high-fertility provinces and in areas with stronger male competition. We also find suggestive evidence that marriage sorting by education increased following the reform. The results imply that fertility constraints distort marriage-market outcomes and that relaxing such constraints can alter both who marries and who marries whom.

Martin Halla (WU Vienna), When Love Is Scarce: Early Marriage Market Competition and Labor Market Outcomes (546)

Early career wage growth is driven by job mobility and occupational sorting, particularly during the first decade of labor-market experience. At the same time, key family formation decisions—such as marriage and childbearing—often occur during this high-return phase. This paper studies the effect of early marriage-market competition on family formation decisions and long-run labor-market outcomes. Using population-wide administrative data from Austria, we construct individual-level measures of local marriage-market tightness based on spatially overlapping partner and competitor sets. Tighter marriage markets delay marriage and fertility, increase educational attainment and geographic mobility, and ultimately lead to higher long-run earnings, particularly for women. Our findings highlight how early family formation can permanently reshape careers by constraining search when search matters most.

Working and Borrowing During University (U5)

Arkadijs Zvaigzne (Harvard University), Success Begets Success: The Dynamic Treatment Effects of Financial Aid Tournaments (64)

Financial aid programs in higher education vary widely in design, including how aid is structured and the timing of provision. This paper studies the impact of financial aid provided as a repeated tournament and its dynamic treatment effects. I exploit a relative GPA-based eligibility rule in a regression discontinuity design to estimate the causal impacts of two types of aid - a tuition waiver and a stipend on top. Waivers have powerful effects on student persistence, increasing graduation rates by 12pp, and GPA by 0.4SD. Stipends affect student effort by increasing student GPA in the next semester by 0.2SD and persistence by increasing graduation rates by 8.8pp. I find a powerful crowding-in effect, where receiving aid in one semester significantly increases the probability of receiving it in the future. Decomposing the impact reveals that a substantial portion of the total long-term benefit of aid comes from the crowding-in of future resources, suggesting that static analyses may underestimate the full value of financial aid programs.

Ciprian Domnisoru (Aalto University), The Role of Firms in Shaping the Work, Study, and Graduation Choices of Student Employees (453)

How do firms affect the academic outcomes of their student employees? As in many European countries, a majority of Finnish students work during the school-year, often in full time positions. Yet, policies and financial incentives targeting on-time graduation are almost exclusively geared towards individuals and universities, overlooking the role of employers. Using university grade records linked to employer-employee data for student employees, this paper estimates firm-specific fixed effects for student employee wages, course credits, and grades. The findings reveal systematic differences in the magnitude of firm effects across industries, employer size, ownership type and other firm characteristics. Limited mobility bias

corrected estimates indicate firm fixed effects explain a large share of the variance in full-time student employee wages, and a nontrivial share of their credit accumulation. In turn, firm credits fixed effects are strongly negatively correlated with the share of late graduates among firms' student employees. These results suggest that firms play a meaningful role in shaping student outcomes and should be considered in the policy mix supporting on-time-graduation and student success more broadly.

Tuomas Kosonen (Vatt Institute For Economic Research), *Borrowing for Success? Studying the Loan Taking Behavior of Students in Response to Financial Incentives* (480)

A major motivation for having publicly subsidized student loans is to help students focus on their studies rather than work, yet many eligible students still forgo these loans and choose to work while studying. Our paper examines how students respond to the financial incentives in student loan policies. We study a Finnish reform that increased the maximum subsidized loan amount and introduced a loan relief scheme forgiving up to 40% of student debt upon timely graduation. Using a quasi-experimental design comparing students to non-student young individuals, we find that the reform substantially increased loan uptake and reduced student employment during studies. Despite strong financial incentives, overall loan utilization remains incomplete, indicating persistent under use. The reform also raised on-time graduation rates, suggesting that reduced work commitments allowed students to focus more on their studies. Heterogeneity analyses show that students from higher-income families and those with stronger math skills were more likely to increase borrowing, though these groups did not experience faster graduation. Our results highlight both efficiency gains and distributional concerns in designing student aid schemes that balance access, incentives, and equity.

Education and Child Outcomes (U6)

Jennifer Graves (Universidad Autonoma de Madrid), *School Calendars and Student Obesity* (69)

US elementary students' obesity prevalence rises during summer and falls during the school year. One explanation is that school provides structure that supports healthy behaviors, including regular schedules around sleep, eating, and physical activity. This seasonal pattern raises the question of whether "year-round" school calendars, which shorten summer vacation without increasing total days in school, could affect obesity. Such calendars could reduce obesity by shortening summer or increase it by disrupting the structure offered by traditional schedules. Disruption may be greatest in "multi-track" year-round schools, where students attend on rotating schedules, complicating school planning and family routines. We estimate the effects of school calendars in California public schools by studying 675 schools that switched from year-round to traditional schedules over 20 years. In a staggered difference-in-differences design, we find no effect of switching calendars unless the year-round schedule used multiple tracks. Transitions from multi-track year-round to traditional

calendars reduced student weight by about one pound and lowered overweight and obesity prevalence by 1–2 percentage points. These results suggest that the influence of year-round calendars operates not through the length of summer vacation, but through the extent to which calendars preserve or disrupt school, family, and care routines.

Lei Shi (Maastricht University), *The Impact of Digital Portable Devices on Student Achievement: Evidence from Staggered Adoption in Dutch Primary Education* (335)

This paper evaluates the causal impact of digital portable devices on student achievement in Dutch primary education using a staggered adoption design. To capture the dynamic nature of human capital formation, we employ two empirical specifications. First, we use an interacted OLS model to analyze short-run learning dynamics in specific domains—reading comprehension and mathematics—using annual monitoring tests. Findings reveal that in reading comprehension, students experience a significant short-run disruption (negative shocks of 0.1–0.2 SD) during the first two years of exposure, supporting an “adjustment cost” narrative where teacher effort is reallocated to device management. In contrast, mathematics achievement shows gradual positive gains (up to 0.34 SD), likely due to the personalized pacing of adaptive software. Second, we employ a multi-valued discrete treatment Difference-in-Differences approach to estimate the impact on cumulative educational attainment. This analysis focuses on the high-stakes Elementary School Exit test, an assessment that integrates mathematics, language, and cognitive performance into a single representative score. We find that cumulative exposure is associated with a significant negative effect of 0.14–0.16 standard deviations. Crucially, this deficit is concentrated at shorter exposure durations, indicating that terminal outcomes primarily reflect the persistence of early academic disruptions rather than incremental harm from long-term use. Mechanism analysis rules out traditional teacher resource quantity (student-teacher ratios) as the driver, suggesting that digitalization directly reconfigures the skill production function. We conclude that technology impacts are developmentally structured, where early literacy shocks can leave a lasting imprint on the total stock of human capital.

Manzura Jumaniyazova (Technical University of Munich), *Gender, Birth Order, and Child Growth: Evidence from Central Asia* (76)

This paper examines how son preference shapes physical growth outcomes of children under the age of five in Central Asia, where cultural preferences favour youngest sons. In a sample of over 40,000 children aged 0–5 years in five Central Asian countries, we estimate how height-for-age and weight-for-age vary by children’s birth order and gender. Our results show a strong birth order gradient in growth of equal size for boys and girls, suggesting unequal intra-household resource allocation consistent with quantity-quality trade-offs. Despite the patriarchal social structure of the included countries, our analysis finds no evidence that preferences to have sons translate into differential growth outcomes by gender.

Parallel Sessions D (11:30–13:00)

Mandatory and Statutory Retirement (V001)

Marton Csillag (Budapest Institute), Unequal Effects of Raising the Statutory Retirement Age (332)

Leveraging pension reforms in Hungary, we study the redistributive effects of increases in the statutory retirement age in an institutional setting that places no restrictions on paid employment after retirement. We show that raising the retirement age generates negative income effects during the period of foregone retirement, with losses concentrated among individuals with the lowest baseline earnings and the poorest health. In the year following the reform, income effects become positive for individuals from the most advantaged socioeconomic backgrounds. These gains are driven by continued employment in higher-paying jobs and at higher-paying firms, combined with longer working hours.

Ylenia Brilli (Ca' Foscari University of Venice), How Raising the Full Retirement Age Affects Women's Early Retirement Choices: Insights from the Interaction of Two Policies (138)

This paper analyzes a reform increasing the female statutory retirement age from 60 to 64, focusing on its interaction with a now-concluded early-exit pathway. This scheme allowed retirement at age 57 subject to a permanent actuarial penalty. Using Italian administrative data, we find that the reform marginally delayed retirement but significantly reduced pension wealth. Effects are strongest for women with low labor attachment or full-time roles, suggesting that early exit is driven by the need to reconcile paid work with household production. Our results highlight the gendered welfare costs of pension tightening.

Benoit Dostie (Hec Montréal), The Welfare Effects of Protecting Older Workers (46)

We study provincial mandatory retirement bans in Canada using linked employer-employee tax data. The bans sharply reduce job separations and retirements at age 65, with sizable announcement effects and considerable heterogeneity across industries and employers. Employment rates and average earnings are unchanged below age 65 but rise substantially thereafter. These welfare gains for older workers are mediated by several spillovers, including higher savings and spousal retirement delays. Highly exposed firms maintain or increase worker productivity and profitability but hire fewer middle-aged workers, decreasing their overall payroll costs. Government revenue also rises, indicating that protecting older workers was a Pareto improvement.

Parental Time, Leave, and Child Development (V002)

Diana Contreras Suarez (University Of Melbourne), Chasing Thirty Million Words: Parental Speech, Gender, and Early Child Development in Timor-Leste (287)

Direct verbal interaction between caregiver and child, also known as Child-Directed Speech (CDS), is fundamental to early cognitive development, yet children in low-resource settings receive substantially less CDS than their peers in higher-resource contexts. We implement a randomized simple information intervention about CDS targeting either mothers or fathers, providing information on CDS benefits and practical implementation strategies through a video and calendar, and included a picture book to address families' limited access to children's books. We combine traditional testing methods with a novel automated speech analysis technology to evaluate effects on child language development. Results from one year after the intervention show that the intervention significantly improved child language development—equivalent to more than half a year of developmental progress—but only when targeting mothers, not fathers. The primary mechanism appears to be behavioral change rather than belief updating among mothers.

Lukas Diethelm (University of Copenhagen), Leave It to Dad? How the Division of Parental Leave Affects Child Development (267)

We study how the division of parental leave between mothers and fathers affects early childhood socio-emotional development, using administrative data from Denmark linked to a large-scale survey among parents of children born between 2015 and 2019. Our identification relies on (i) a panel data approach in which we control for development measured before fathers typically take their share of parental leave, and (ii) quasi-experimental variation in fathers' wage compensation used as an instrument for the division of parental leave. We find no evidence that children are negatively affected by fathers taking more leave; on the contrary, we find small (and short-lived) positive effects on children's socio-emotional development.

Rannveig Hart (University of Oslo), Paternity Quotas and Family Health: Evidence from Policy Expansions in Norway (633)

In the Nordic countries, compensated parental leave during a child's first year of life is a core component of the public support to families. This first year is formative for the child and a sensitive period for the parents. Both the length of parental leave and how it is shared between parents might therefore impact the health of parents and children. We assess how prolonging fathers' leave affects families' health outcomes. For causal identification, we exploit a Norwegian reform that expanded the paternity quota from 6 to 10 weeks, taking effect immediately for parents of children born July 1st 2009 and later. We draw data on parental leave, health service use, births and family linkages from population and health registers and we use a difference-in-discontinuity design to separate the immediate effect from other variations by birth date. Our results show that while the reform increased father's

use of leave with about three work weeks, this did not impact the mental health of mothers and fathers. Thus, at this margin, the design of the parental leave scheme does not impact parents' health. In subsequent steps, we aim to expand the analysis to include effects of subsequent reform i.e.: the expansion of the paternity quota from 10 to 12 weeks in 2011, from 12 to 14 weeks in 2013, the reduction from 14 to 10 weeks in 2014, and the increase from 10 to 15 weeks in 2018.

Divorce, Separation, and Marital Outcomes (T003)

Junya Hamaaki (Hosei University), Divorce and Loss of Marital Gains from the Division of Labor: Evidence from a Pension Reform in Japan (285)

We examine the impact of Japan's 2007 pension reform on divorce decisions. Prior to the reform, many Japanese couples maintained a traditional division of labor into old age, where the primary earner continued to receive income through employment-related pensions, while the spouse contributed through household work. The reform allowed spouses to claim half of the primary earner's pension contributions accrued during marriage in the event of divorce, enabling them to capture the economic gains of the traditional division of labor without remaining married. Using the reform as a natural experiment, we test the hypothesis that the reduction in these marital gains increased the likelihood of divorce. Our analysis reveals that among couples experiencing the largest reduction in marital gains, the incidence of divorce rose by 10 to 20% in the year of the reform and the following three years. This finding highlights the important role of marital gains associated with the division of labor in shaping divorce decisions.

Yue Huang (IAAEU, Trier University), She Manages the Money – He Spends It: Income Management and the Spousal Expenditure Gap in Japan (474)

This article explores the link between income management styles and expenditure behaviors within married Japanese couples. A substantial body of literature addresses the distribution of income and earning disparities within couples, yet empirical evidence on income management practices and expenditure decisions remains scarce. This study closes that gap with unique data from the Japan Panel Survey of Consumers (JPSC). We find that traditional Japanese income management arrangements, wherein husbands transfer their full income to their wives for management, are linked to women's reduced relative expenditure share. Although these women's life and marital satisfaction do not appear to be negatively affected, they report greater concerns about household finances.

Migration, Welfare, and Identity (T004)

Meeri Seppä (Aalto University), Immigrant Labor Supply Responses to Welfare Eligibility (628)

Immigrants' access to welfare benefits and public services is central to the immigration policy debate, yet credible evidence on how eligibility affects immigrant labor supply remains scarce. We study this question using a natural experiment in Finland, where Ukrainian

refugees unexpectedly became eligible for a broad set of welfare benefits and public services after 12 months of residence following the 2022 Russian invasion. Using high-frequency administrative data, we compare monthly employment and earnings trajectories of Ukrainian refugees to otherwise similar migrants whose welfare eligibility was unaffected. We find substantial but incomplete take-up of benefits and services and a decline in labor supply following eligibility: employment falls by about 4 percentage points and earnings by 13 percent in the first year. These effects are highly heterogeneous and concentrated among migrants without children, while parents are much less affected, consistent with a childcare channel that lowers work-related constraints. Leveraging regional variation in access to integration services, we show that early access to immigrant training mitigates the negative employment effects and is associated with stronger labor market trajectories, although part of the short-run decline reflects enrollment in full-time training. Overall, our findings highlight that welfare access can reduce short-run labor supply while simultaneously expanding access to services that likely support longer-run integration.

Julia Bredtmann (RWI - Leibniz Institute for Economic Research), The Effect of Forced Displacement on Children's Health Outcomes: Evidence for Nigeria (392)

This paper examines the impact of internal forced displacement on child mortality and morbidity. We explore the impact of the Boko Haram insurgency in Nigeria, which resulted in the displacement of over two million people to neighboring safe areas. Accounting for the endogenous location choice of internally displaced people, we find no effect of the inflow of internally displaced individuals on child mortality. However, regions that experienced higher inflows of internally displaced people saw a decrease in child morbidity. We explore potential channels through which these results operate and find that increased vaccination coverage seems to explain the improvement in child health outcomes.

Labour Supply (U006)

Elena Castellaro (University of Amsterdam), Working Less, Feeling Better? Health and Labor Supply Responses to Late-Career Workload Reductions Among Teachers (466)

This paper studies the effects of late-career working hours-reduction on teachers' retention and health. I investigate a policy that allows secondary school teachers in the Netherlands to reduce their workload at a modest income cost and exploit a 2014 reform that raised the program's eligibility age. Using a difference-in-discontinuities design and linked administrative employment and health insurance reimbursement data, I find that eligibility to the hours-reduction program induces substantial take-up and increases the probability of remaining employed as a teacher over the five years following eligibility. Moreover, the access to the hours-reduction program improves mental health: antidepressants use substantially declines, with effects concentrated among women. Overall, the results indicate that workload reduction policies operating at older ages can improve teacher health while supporting continued employment.

Zainab Iftikhar (University of Bonn), Economic Incentives or Social Norms? Labor Supply Differentials Between East and West German Mothers (83)

This paper investigates the economic and social incentives behind the gap in maternal work hours between East and West Germany. We build a collective model of endogenous family formation and labor supply featuring region-specific stigmas against non-marital parenting and maternal work. We structurally estimate our model using data from the German Socio Economic Panel (GSOEP) waves 2000-2017. The quantitative analysis identifies a substantial stigma against working mothers in West Germany. It is equivalent to increasing the disutility of labor by 50% and it can explain alone 74% of the work hour gap with the East. We also estimate the stigma against non-marital parenting to be over twice as large in the West, which helps explain the lower share of cohabiting mothers in the region. However, this difference can only account for 7% of the work hour gap. Higher wage rates in West Germany contribute to keeping the regional work-hours gap low. In absence of the regional wage gap, the work hours gap almost doubles. Policies that aim at reducing gender wage gap, eliminating regional differences in cost of living and childcare, or granting same tax benefits to cohabiting and married couples increase the regional work hours gap. Family reforms providing cohabiting couples access to marital assets reduce the work hours gap.

Immigration and Integration (U1)

Crystal Zhan (University of South Carolina), Networks, Earnings, and Occupational Stratification Among Immigrants: Evidence from the Netherlands (299)

We study how local co-ethnic networks shape early career labor market outcomes for immigrant graduates from universities of applied sciences (HBO) in the Netherlands. Network exposure is measured by the same-origin share in an immigrant's municipality during the final year of study. To address endogenous sorting, we implement a shift-share instrumental variable. Combining HBO Monitor Survey data from 2015 to 2023 with municipality-level data on immigrant composition, we uncover three key patterns. First, co-ethnic presence raises both monthly and hourly earnings across specifications, with the effects being more pronounced for second-generation immigrants than first-generation immigrants. We trace these gains to two mechanisms: networks (i) improve job-skill matching and (ii) expand early career preparation, increasing internship completion, especially internships in the Netherlands among the first generation. Second, network effects on occupational status are sharply heterogeneous by generation: co-ethnic concentration shifts first generation toward lower status jobs, but have no impacts on the second generation. Importantly, networks still raise the earnings of first-generation immigrants within lower status occupations, indicating that networks improve pay even when occupational upgrading does not occur. Third, within the first generation, the negative status effect is concentrated among adult-arrival immigrants, and is weaker for childhood-arrival immigrants. These findings may highlight the need for complementary host-country human capital and integration policies.

Marie Louise Schultz-Nielsen (Rockwool Foundation), Family Formation and Local Amenities: Insights from Refugee Placement in Denmark (370)

Using quasi-experimental random assignment to neighbourhood for refugees in Denmark from 1999–2015, we examine how local amenities, such as ethnic networks, labor market conditions, and access to language schools, influence refugees' family formation patterns and birth outcomes. Specifically, we explore key life events related to partnership dynamics, timing of parenthood, and birth outcomes including children's birth weight which may have long-term implications for well-being and development. We hypothesize that strong co-ethnic networks and limited access to education may hinder cultural assimilation as measured by family formation patterns such as likelihood of marriage, divorce and fertility choice, while also affecting health at birth through language barriers and social support mechanisms. Our findings suggest that the size and composition of co-ethnic networks influence family stability, with larger networks associated with a lower likelihood of divorce within the first eight years after arrival. The effect appears more pronounced for women than for men. Additionally, our findings indicate that specific neighbourhood characteristics—such as co-ethnic networks and access to language instruction—may influence early-life health outcomes, with potential implications for the next generation. Our results highlight how local area characteristics shape both family formation patterns and intergenerational well-being. Importantly, the findings suggest that initial settlement location is relevant for integration policy. The findings contribute to a deeper understanding of how spatial settlement policies influence refugee integration, offering new insights for policymakers on the long-term impact of local environments on demographic behavior.

Julio Garbers (Liser), Arriving LATE: Access to Citizenship and Economic Integration (672)

We analyze whether faster access to citizenship fosters the economic integration of immigrants. Our empirical setting is Germany, which went from a strict concept of citizenship based on 'jus sanguinis' to a more open citizenship policy. We make use of discontinuities in residency requirements faced by first-generation immigrants to estimate LATEs based on Local Randomization and Fuzzy RDD approaches. We find that a more liberal citizenship policy acts as a catalyst for integration, especially for immigrant women. Women's labor force participation increases by 8.9 percentage points and their earnings by 21.3%. We do not find any significant effects on immigrant men.

Mothers' Labour Supply (U3)

Daniel Fernandez Kranz (Ie University), Maternity Benefits, Consumption and Labor Supply: Estimating Causal Effects with Bank Transaction Data (20)

We estimate the causal effects of a generous maternity benefit introduced in Madrid in 2022 (MMB), which granted €500 per month from the fifth month of pregnancy until a child's second birthday to mothers under age 31 with low or moderate income. We exploit the sharp eligibility cutoff on January 1, 2022, using a regression discontinuity design and high-

frequency bank transaction data covering daily spending, earnings, and account balances. Eligible mothers received, on average, over €7,000 in MMB payments during the 29 months surrounding childbirth. Total spending increased by about €1,200, implying an average MPC of 0.24, with strong heterogeneity: the MPC is near zero among higher-income mothers and rises to 0.39 among lower-income mothers, who show sizable increases in basic-necessity spending and sharp, short-lived spikes in expenditure after each deposit. Higher-income mothers exhibit no meaningful change in consumption but display economically large, though imprecisely estimated, reductions in labor earnings. Across administrative, survey, and transaction data, we find no aggregate decline in employment. Overall, the benefit alleviated liquidity constraints for lower-income mothers and enabled modest time reallocation for higher-income mothers without reducing employment.

Sophie Wagner (University of Potsdam), The Summer Drop in Mothers' Job Search (317)

Job search depends not only on financial incentives and labor demand, but also on the availability of time, particularly for mothers during school holidays, when caregiving responsibilities disproportionately fall on women. Using survey data from the German Panel Study Labour Market and Social Security (PASS), I study how summer school holidays affect active job search among unemployed mothers relative to comparable women without children. The empirical strategy exploits predetermined variation in holiday timing across German federal states. The results show that mothers' job search participation on the extensive margin declines by about 6.4 percentage points during summer school holidays, whereas fathers' job search does not fall and, if anything, increases. These patterns are consistent with a gendered distribution of childcare responsibilities and highlight school holidays as a recurring constraint on mothers' labor market re-entry. I further examine childcare as both a mechanism and a potential mitigator, using proxies for childcare participation and local availability to assess whether greater childcare provision attenuates the holiday-related drop in mothers' job search. The findings identify an underexplored temporal barrier to women's employment and point to the potential value of expanding flexible childcare options for school-aged children during school holidays.

Judit Kreko (Elte Centre For Economic And Regional Studies), Labour Market Outcomes of Mothers of Children with Special Needs or Disabilities (696)

This paper studies how having a child with special needs affects mothers' labour market outcomes, job quality, and income trajectories. Using Hungarian linked employer--employee administrative data, we compare mothers whose only child attends segregated special education to mothers whose child never attended segregated special education. We apply an event-study difference-in-differences design centred around childbirth. We document substantial and persistent employment and earnings penalties for mothers of children with special needs. These mothers are significantly less likely to be employed, more likely to work part-time, and earn lower wages upon returning to work. Consequently, their labour income remains persistently lower over time. Finally, we provide novel evidence on job quality by

examining firm fixed effects, suggesting that the persistent wage-rate gap is not driven by differential selection into lower-paying firms.

Unemployed Workers and Unemployment Caseworkers (U4)

Benjamine Dejardin (Dulbea (Université Libre de Bruxelles)), What Drives Reskilling Decisions? Evidence from a Discrete Choice Experiment with Unemployed Jobseekers (78)

Rapidly evolving labor markets have led to skill mismatches and a growing need for workforce reskilling. This study explores the drivers of jobseekers' reskilling decisions through a discrete choice experiment conducted with a Public Employment Service. We find that the unemployed hold strong occupational preferences in the context of training decisions, but that these preferences can be shifted under some conditions. Training program attributes, such as shorter waiting times and commuting distances, the teaching format, and involving employers in the organization of the training program, can increase willingness to reskill. Working conditions in the target occupation such as salary, career evolution prospects, work demands and schedule flexibility, also matter for reskilling decisions. We discuss implications for policy-makers and employers struggling to find adequately skilled workers.

Patrick Arni (Zurich University of Applied Sciences (ZHAW) & University of Bristol), Algorithms, Incentives, and Effort Adjustment: A Field Experiment with Caseworkers (551)

Algorithms are increasingly deployed to improve policy, yet little is known about how their predictions are factored into subsequent decisions of policy implementers. In this paper, we present evidence from a field experiment in the unemployment insurance context. Caseworkers were given access to an algorithm predicting jobseekers' unemployment durations in a randomly selected number of cases, with the intent to shift effort to jobseekers at risk of long-term unemployment. We find that caseworkers indeed changed their behavior - but not in the way intended by the intervention. Caseworkers increased their efforts among jobseekers with predicted short unemployment durations, which further increased unemployment exit rates among this group. We also study the impact of the intervention on caseworker actions, job seeker behavior and wages in the found job. Analyzing elicited prior beliefs, we show that the caseworkers' effort adjustment is not only driven by belief updating. Ultimately, the algorithm appears to alter the perceived incentive structure. To better understand the mechanism, we sketch a model of caseworkers with reputational concerns. In our model, the algorithm provides a public signal of case difficulty, leading caseworkers to shift effort to avoid the blame associated with failing to place easy cases.

Healthcare Access (U5)

Marcus Ernø-Heising (Aarhus University), Measuring Physician Gatekeeping Using Patient Moves: Consequences for Care Utilisation and Patient Outcomes (364)

In health systems with universal coverage, primary care providers (PCPs) serve as gatekeepers, regulating access to high-cost specialist and hospital care while promoting equitable treatment. Using Danish register data, we show that PCPs vary considerably in the rate at which they refer patients to specialist and hospital services. Among the least lenient PCPs (bottom 10%), 12% of patients over age 60 are referred on a quarterly basis, compared to 24% among the most lenient PCPs (top 10%). Drawing on the mover design of Finkelstein, Gentzkow & Williams (2016), we show that almost three-fourths of the variation in PCP referral rates between providers is driven by PCP factors, while the remaining one-fourth is explained by differences in patient characteristics, including unobserved health. We estimate PCP-specific referral propensities using a two-way fixed effects model, and find that being assigned to a PCP with a one standard deviation higher referral propensity leads to an increase in healthcare costs of roughly 4,000 DKK and a 1.14 percentage point reduction in three-year patient mortality, corresponding to a cost per life saved of approximately 340,000 DKK. These findings suggest that heterogeneity in PCP decision-making has meaningful consequences for both health care spending and patient outcomes.

Monique de Haan (University of Amsterdam), The Causal Effect of Higher Education on Health (226)

Higher education is strongly associated with better health, yet the extent to which this reflects a causal effect or differences in pre-determined characteristics remains unclear. Using population-wide administrative data from the Netherlands, we estimate the causal impact of completing higher education on chronic conditions and healthcare expenditures. We apply a fully nonparametric bounding framework that combines monotone treatment selection and response assumptions with monotone instrumental variables based on fathers' income and mothers' health. We find that at least 35 percent of the observed health gap between higher education graduates and non-graduates is driven by selection. Nevertheless, higher education causally reduces the likelihood of chronic conditions, especially lifestyle-related diseases, and lowers annual healthcare expenditures among graduates.

Chiara Campana (VU Amsterdam), Consequences of Disability Insurance Application Waiting Times on Benefit Receipt, Employment and Health Outcomes (388)

One major concern with application waiting times for disability insurance (DI) are decay effects: health conditions and employment prospects of applicants worsen over time. Using unique large-scale data of the Netherlands between 2014 and 2022, we study the importance of such effects on the likelihood of DI awards, employment, and health outcomes. For causal inference, we instrument waiting times with "leave-one-out-means" for offices by application months. We find positive effects on employment in the first months after application,

reflecting a largely mechanical and transitory effect of permanent workers for whom the ending of formal contracts is delayed. Two years after application, however, there remain small but precise and significant negative effects on employment: one extra month of waiting results in a reduction in the employment probability of 0.20 percentage point. Concurrent with this, each additional month of waiting leads to a 0.44 percentage point increase in DI awards. These effects go together with a temporary increase in mental health care utilization of 0.4 percentage points after six months from application and an increase of prescriptions for rheumatological conditions, pain-related conditions and psychological diseases two years after application.

Gender Gaps and Differences (U6)

Saloni Chopra (University of St Andrews), Is Affirmative Action the Answer? Shrinking the STEM Gender Gap in Higher Education (186)

This paper analyze a gender-based affirmative action policy implemented in 2020 for STEM programs at Uganda's largest public university. Pushing more women in STEM majors by relaxing the admission criterion may lead to a potential mismatch. Improved gender balance, on the other hand, can generate positive peer effects for the entire cohort, especially women. Linking different administrative datasets on student's applications, admissions and college academic performance, we empirically assess the effects of the policy induced changes in gender composition, on students' higher education outcomes. We first establish that the policy successfully increased women's access to STEM majors, resulting in a 9-percentage-point rise in female enrollment in traditionally male-dominated fields. We document that women (men) entering treated majors after the policy have, on average, lower (higher) high school test scores than their counterparts in untreated majors. Despite this, the policy led to improved college GPA and reduced the likelihood of failing courses in the first year for both men and women in the treated majors. Even among the top high school applicants whose admission status were not affected by the policy, we find that both men and women in treated majors experienced significant GPA improvements. Women's GPA rose by 0.45 SD, compared to a 0.25 SD increase for men. Our results suggest that increased gender diversity, brought by the policy, had positive spillover effects beyond its direct impact on enrollment.

Enzo Brox (University of Bern), Gender Differences in Beliefs About Productivity-Relevant Skills (513)

Beliefs about one's own skills shape educational choices, occupational sorting, and labor market outcomes. This paper studies how individuals form beliefs about multidimensional, productivity-relevant skills. Using rich administrative and test data from large-scale professional aptitude tests in Switzerland, we observe realized and self-assessed performance across a wide range of cognitive and occupational skill modules. Adapting the framework of Bordalo et al. (2019), we decompose belief distortions into difficulty-induced misestimation of ability and stereotype-based distortions anchored in actual gender

differences. We document strong evidence of both mechanisms. Individuals systematically overestimate performance in difficult modules and underestimate performance in easy ones. Conditional on own performance, self-assessments vary systematically with the gender performance gap of a skill domain, with substantially stronger stereotype effects for women. We show that these effects are highly heterogeneous across individuals, with low-ability individuals being substantially more affected by stereotypes.

Johanna Raith (Halle Institute for Economic Research (IWH)), From Page to Profession: Gender Norms in Mandatory Reading Lists and Women's Career Choices (576)

Gendered educational and occupational choices remain a central driver of the gender pay gap. A growing literature highlights the role of gender norms in shaping these choices, yet we know little about how such norms are formed early in life. We study whether gender norms conveyed through literary narratives in high school affect women's educational and labor market choices. We exploit mandatory reading lists in the final years of secondary school in Germany. Reading lists are centrally determined at the federal-state level and change across Abitur cohorts, generating plausibly exogenous variation in students' exposure to gendered narratives at a consequential stage of decision-making. Using computational text analysis of full book texts, we construct novel measures of (i) female representation, (ii) female agency, (iii) gender-differentiated portrayal (valence–arousal–dominance), and (iv) the domains in which female characters appear (e.g., work versus household/care). We aggregate these measures to state-cohort exposure indices and link them to individual outcomes in the SOEP and the DZHW Graduate Panel, which provide information on field of study, occupational choice, working time, and household bargaining. The paper contributes to research on gender norm formation and the economic effects of curricular content by introducing a new setting with compulsory exposure and by providing scalable, text-based measures of gender norms in canonical literature.

Parallel Sessions E (14:30–16:30)

Firms, Bosses, and Recruitment (V001)

Clément Brébion (Rockwool Foundation), Matching Firms and Apprentices Online: Evidence from a Nationwide Experiment (91)

This paper investigates whether directing apprenticeship seekers towards firms likely to hire fosters training and employment. In contrast to the literature on online matching platforms that list open vacancies, we study whether helping jobseekers target firms with unadvertised opportunities can create new and better matches. We implemented a nationwide field experiment over 18 months, involving over 500,000 plants, and linked experimental data to comprehensive administrative records on hiring, contract characteristics, and post-apprenticeship outcomes. Despite a sharp increase in firm visibility on the platform and in the number of unsolicited applications they received, the intervention did not raise

apprenticeship recruitment. If anything, hiring slightly declined, particularly among larger firms and those with a strong prior record of apprenticeship training. We find no offsetting evidence of improved match quality. Survey and platform data suggest that the platform increases screening costs and crowds out more effective recruitment channels. These results underscore the limits of exposure-driven platforms in stimulating firm demand.

Roman Klauser (RWI – Leibniz Institute for Economic Research), Flexibility or Selectivity? How Firms Adjust Hiring Standards as Labor Markets Tighten (618)

This paper studies how firms adjust their hiring standards in response to rising labor market tightness, combining German online job postings from 2017 to 2024 with official statistics on open positions and job seekers. We construct a firm panel and examine adjustments along three dimensions of human capital: formal requirements, job complexity levels within occupations, and task-specific skill bundles. Exploiting firm-specific exposure to tightness over time, we distinguish changes in job contents from compositional shifts in the jobs that firms post. Our results show that tighter labor markets are associated with increased selectivity rather than greater flexibility. Firms raise education requirements, but shift experience requirements toward intermediate levels, indicating different adjustment margins within formal credentials. Recruitment also shifts toward specialist and expert roles within occupations, while skill bundles increasingly emphasize cognitive and digital competencies. These patterns are strongest in urban labor markets and among older firms, but weakest in public-sector-related jobs. Overall, our findings suggest that in an era of persistent labor shortages, firms respond not by broadening access to jobs, but by sharpening hiring standards.

Agata Maida (University of Milan), Firm Recruitment Under Guaranteed Minimum Income: Evidence from Italy's Online Job Vacancy Data * (677)

This paper studies the effects of Guaranteed Minimum Income (GMI) schemes on firm recruitment, using Italy as a case study. Leveraging rich Online Job Vacancies (OJV) data, we examine how the introduction of the GMI affects the number, duration, and characteristics of job postings. We implement a Difference-in-IV strategy, exploiting municipal variation in GMI exposure after its introduction. This approach allows us to identify the causal impact of GMI on formal firm recruitment behavior. We find that firms more heavily exposed to the GMI experience an increase in the number and duration of postings, as well as in the likelihood of disclosing wages. We also find that the effects of the GMI are highly heterogeneous depending on the firm- and province-specific characteristics. Our findings contribute to a better understanding of how GMI schemes may affect firm recruitment dynamics.

Natella Agikyan (LISER), Boss Effects in the Labor Market (650)

How do bosses affect the labor market careers of workers? We use rich employer-employee data for Norway matched to survey information on firm hierarchies to study the role of bosses for wages, promotions and turnover. Our estimation strategy extends approaches used for peer effects to study vertical relationship within firms ('boss effects'). Worker ability increases as one moves up the firm hierarchy, and is strongly correlated with good performance as measured by bonus payments and rapid promotion. More able bosses raise the wages of their subordinates, but our estimates are more modest than previous case studies suggest. Moreover, more able bosses increase the likelihood of promotion, but have little impact on turnover. Bosses play a stronger role in high-skilled occupations and higher up in the firm hierarchy.

Beliefs (V002)

Giorgia Menta (LISER), The Accuracy and Malleability of Parental Beliefs About Child Socio-Emotional Health (463)

Using data from Luxembourg, the United Kingdom, and Australia, combined with a novel survey eliciting both parental beliefs about children's latent socio-emotional wellbeing (defined as first-order beliefs) and beliefs about children's self-reports (defined as second-order beliefs), we document systematic under-reporting of socio-emotional difficulties by parents. We develop a simple Bayesian model of signal extraction showing how such discrepancies can arise from information frictions and differences in reporting styles between parents and children. The model predicts that parents with accurate second-order beliefs are informationally unbiased; correspondingly, in the data their assessments of child distress more closely match children's self-reports. The data further confirm the model's prediction, showing that the accuracy of parental beliefs declines when children experience high levels of distress. The precision of second-order beliefs is negatively correlated with parental education, income, employment, and -- paradoxically -- with more accurate priors about aggregate parental under-reporting, a pattern we label the Capacity Paradox. A randomized information intervention shifts both first- and second-order beliefs, but only among parents with weak priors, as predicted by the model, and generates heterogeneous effects on intended parental investments. These findings highlight the central role of second-order beliefs in understanding parental misperceptions and the scope for targeted information policies to improve understanding of children emotional wellbeing.

Pamela Giustinelli (University of Padova), Getting In and Getting Through: Ex Ante Beliefs and Counterfactual Outcomes in Centralized College Admissions (583)

"We study belief accuracy in a centralized higher-education admissions system using Norwegian data that combine a large pre-admission expectations survey with administrative records on offers, enrollment, and completion. Program-specific cutoffs provide a fuzzy regression discontinuity design that identifies objective counterfactual outcomes at the

admission margin and allows direct comparison with subjective, state-contingent beliefs (first-choice access versus the relevant second-choice offer state). We find that enrollment forecast errors are driven mainly by mistaken beliefs about offer probabilities, while beliefs about enrollment conditional on an offer are comparatively accurate. For completion, the dominant error is persistence

optimism: applicants substantially overestimate completion conditional on enrollment under both access states. Applicants also overstate first-minus-second returns for both enrollment and completion. These errors are economically meaningful for choices: in a partial-equilibrium counterfactual exercise, correcting beliefs implies large declines in the predicted probability of keeping the currently ranked first choice on top."

Miano (or Heß — contingent) (Institute For Employment Research), Worker Beliefs About Occupational Mobility (587)

We study how employed workers perceive and respond to opportunities for occupational mobility. Using a large-scale online survey of 4,500 full-time workers in Germany, linked with administrative employment data, we measure workers' beliefs about the transferability of their skills, the similarity of alternative occupations to theirs, the benefits—potential earnings—and costs—retraining and licensing requirements—of moving to other occupations. We also capture respondents' beliefs about exposure of theirs and alternative occupations to automation, AI, and the green transition. The results reveal that workers are imperfectly informed about opportunities in other occupations: they systematically underestimate task similarity and wages in alternative occupations while overestimating the need for retraining or licensing. These misperceptions are strongly correlated with intentions to seek jobs in other occupations. Randomized information treatments providing data on wages, retraining requirements, and displacement risk meaningfully alter workers' beliefs and mobility intentions. These findings suggest that information gaps may hinder efficient labor reallocation, especially during periods of structural transformations, and that targeted informational interventions can help improve occupational mobility decisions.

Marina Della Giusta (University of Turin), Beliefs, Delegation and Backlash: Experimental Evidence from a Nationally Representative Sample (512)

We investigate the role of stereotypes in motivating the willingness to both delegate tasks and be delegated to, focusing on beliefs about the ability of delegates to carry out volunteering tasks willingly and competently by means of a survey experiment that we administer to a representative sample of 1100 US adults. We assess the extent to which exposure to information on actual ability and willingness corrects beliefs, as well as the extent to which exposure to information on own biases corrects beliefs, and how age and race of both delegators and delegates mitigate these effects. Finally, we produce measures of backlash against performing delegated tasks assessing both task competence and further delegation decisions of delegates. By eliciting a rich picture of people's beliefs about the effects of their delegation choices as well as the delegation choices they decline to make, we hope to inform

policymakers and managers seeking to promote equality in workload assignment. In short, who needs to be told what about whom?

Pollution and its Effects (T003)

Lara Lebedinski (Institute of Economic Sciences), Air Pollution and Infant Outcomes: Evidence from Serbia (202)

This paper examines the short-term effects of in-utero exposure to air pollution on infant health outcomes in Serbia, a highly polluted but understudied middle-income country. Using individual-level administrative birth records from 2010–2023 and satellite-derived PM_{2.5} data, we estimate the causal impact of prenatal pollution exposure through a cross-sectional and within-mother (sibling fixed effects) design. Our results show that higher PM_{2.5} exposure during pregnancy, particularly in the first and third trimesters, significantly reduces birth weight, with the strongest effects observed among socio-economically disadvantaged groups and male infants. We find no significant association between PM_{2.5} and the incidence of preterm birth or low birth weight overall, and detect no adverse effects in the relatively cleaner Vojvodina region. The estimated impacts are attenuated after 2019, coinciding with increased public awareness, highlighting the importance of both environmental quality and behavioural responses in mitigating health risks.

Chris Hockey (Royal Holloway, University of London), Coal-Fired Power Plant Air Pollution and Infant Mortality: A Natural Experiment from the 1984 Miners' Strike (715)

We estimate the causal effect of reductions in air-pollution from coal-fired power plants on infant mortality across local authorities in England. Identification exploits the sharp decline in coal-fired electricity generation induced by the 1984-85 miners' strike. We construct an exposure-intensity measure for power-plant air-pollution by combining daily wind patterns with a novel dataset on plant output, fuel type, thermal efficiency and geographic location, and aggregate this to local authorities. We find that reductions in infant mortality following the pollution-shock are driven by areas that were subject to the highest levels of exposure to coal-fired power plant air pollution pre-strike and are strongest for deaths that occur within the first month of life. The effects appear with a lag and are consistent with a mechanism operating through improved pre-conception and gestation conditions, rather than contemporaneous exposure and supports a non-linear dose-response relationship. Our contribution is twofold: we provide new causal evidence on the health effects of air pollution from coal-fired power plants, and we evaluate the public health consequences of one of the largest industrial disputes in British history which marked the decline of one of Britain's largest industrial sectors.

Marita Laukkanen (Tampere University and Vatt), Children of a Heating Transition: Long-Term Consequences of Reduced Local Air Pollution (522)

We study how reductions in urban air pollution resulting from the introduction of centralized heat production shape human development and labor market outcomes. We find evidence that children born in urban areas which experienced reductions in pollution are less likely to be unemployed as adults. The transition to district heating is associated with increases in the total years of schooling. We explore health outcomes and skills beyond educational attainment as mechanisms that could explain how the transition to district heating shifted adult labor market outcomes.

Mariët Bogaard (ROA, Maastricht University), Pollution at Work: Air Quality and On-the-Job Accidents (405)

This paper investigates the impact of air pollution on workplace accidents, providing new evidence on an important but under-studied channel through which environmental conditions affect welfare. We combine detailed administrative data on occupational injuries with high-resolution ambient air quality measures for the contiguous United States. To identify the causal effect of pollution on workplace safety, we estimate models with fixed effects and instrument for local air pollution using plausibly exogenous variation generated by daily wind direction. We find that air pollution significantly increases workplace accident risk. Specifically, our preferred estimates indicate that a one-standard deviation increase in the Air Quality Index raises workplace accidents by 8.14 percent. Higher pollution also increases accident severity, including fatalities and injuries involving days away from work and job transfers, with these effects concentrated on days with the highest pollution levels. Our results underscore a substantial hidden cost of air pollution and highlight workplace safety as an additional and economically meaningful benefit of improved air quality.

Pensions and Retirement (T004)

Quillaccori García (Norwegian School of Economics), Preventing vs. Correcting Inequality: Childcare Pension Credits and Women's Retirement (485)

This paper studies the impact of a pure increase in pension wealth on retirement behavior. I exploit a 2010 Norwegian reform that retroactively extended childcare-related pension credits to mothers of children born between 1967 and 1991. Using population-wide administrative data and a difference-in-differences design that leverages variation in the reform's impact on final pension benefits, I show that the policy increased pension benefits by 2.1 percent on average and reduced the gender gap in lifetime pension benefits by about 0.5 percentage points. Behavioral responses are modest: there are small reductions in employment and earnings, and increased disability insurance take-up among cohorts not yet eligible to retire at the time of treatment. I benchmark these effects against a policy that may reduce the gender pension gap by increasing female employment and earnings earlier in life, the 1975 expansion of subsidized childcare in Norway, faced by the same cohorts. The comparison highlights the

trade-offs between correcting and preventing gender inequality and informs the welfare evaluation of policies targeting gender gaps over the life cycle.

Mia Teschner-Hofmann (DIW Berlin, Freie Universität Berlin, Berlin School of Economics), Working Longer: The Effects of a Higher Retirement Age on Work-Related Health Investments (491)

Health investments are vital for maintaining physical and mental well-being throughout working life, and their importance is amplified by rising retirement ages due to demographic aging. This is the first study to examine whether a longer working life causally increases institutionalized health investments. We explore the impact of a German pension reform that raised the retirement age by three years and extended the working life. Utilizing detailed administrative data from the German pension insurance on work-related rehabilitation measures, we apply a regression discontinuity design exploiting the cohort variation induced by the reform. We find significant empirical evidence of an increased willingness to participate in health investments to enhance work capacity, particularly among individuals with poorer health status. Thus, our findings are consistent with the theoretical predictions of the human capital model. However, we do not find evidence for the realization of these health investments. The estimated null effect on participation holds across various specifications and persists for specific diagnoses and subgroups. Our results suggest that this finding is not driven by increased application rejections or by individual decision-making, but rather by institutional capacity constraints. Our findings thereby highlight a costly omission for societies with aging workforces.

Ludo Höfelmann (ROA Maastricht), Working Longer for Social Good? How Information on Retirement Income and Timing Shapes Preferences for Socially Responsible Investments in Pension Portfolios (503)

Pension funds play a central role in individuals' long-term financial security while simultaneously influencing broader societal outcomes through their investment choices. Although many participants express a preference for socially responsible investments (SRIs), it remains unclear how this preference is affected when the trade-offs with retirement income and working life are made explicit. We investigate how detailed information on expected returns, replacement ratios, and potential changes in retirement age influences individual preferences for SRIs in pension fund portfolios. Using a stated preference experiment conducted among 1,726 Dutch pension-eligible adults (10,379 observations), respondents evaluated hypothetical portfolios varying systematically in financial and social characteristics, including SRI share, type, risk, timing, and geographic focus. Respondents were randomly assigned to treatment groups differing in the information provided about financial returns and retirement outcomes. Our findings indicate that willingness to invest in SRIs decreases when participants are informed about the potential impact on retirement income and the necessity to work longer, particularly when expected portfolio returns fall below traditional benchmarks. The specific characteristics of SRIs, such as type or

geographic focus, have limited influence on preferences. We observe substantial heterogeneity in responses based on risk aversion, financial literacy, and demographic factors. These results highlight the importance for pension funds to carefully communicate trade-offs between financial and social objectives and to consider participant heterogeneity when designing sustainable investment options.

Jan Kabatek (The University of Melbourne), *Firms, Executives and Retirement* (302)

We study the extent to which firms and managers shape workers' retirement decisions. Using population-level administrative data from the Netherlands, we document pronounced heterogeneity in retirement timing across firms: while some firms experience sharp worker exits at the Statutory Retirement Age (SRA), others retain substantial shares of their workforce well beyond this threshold. We show that a sizable fraction of this heterogeneity persists even after controlling for a rich set of worker, job, and firm characteristics, which points to the importance of idiosyncratic firm-level factors such as management practices, workplace culture, and peer effects. Using an empirical Bayes mover design, we highlight the central role of management practices: managers who switch firms are shown to systematically alter the retirement behavior in their new workplaces, transmitting more than half of the retirement dynamics observed in their previous workplaces. These findings imply that firm-level retirement practices are not fixed, but malleable, and that interventions targeting managerial behavior may meaningfully extend older workers' labor force participation.

Automation and the Labor Market (U006)

Sofia Bougt-Hernnäs (Hanken School of Economics), *Automation When Skills Are Bundled* (594)

Automation affects workers because it affects the return to their skills when performing different tasks. We propose a general equilibrium model of occupational choice and technological change which takes two important labor market features into account: (i) automation happens to tasks and (ii) workers have bundled skills. Equilibrium skill returns vary across tasks, and the impact of automation on skill returns is task-specific. In equilibrium, automation reduces employment in the task subjected to automation so long as tasks are gross complements. This reduction in employment increases both tasks' intensity in the skill used intensively in the automated task. This increased intensity is coupled with a universal decline in the return to the skill used intensively in the automated task. Conversely, the return to the other skill increases in both tasks. We calibrate the model to match the Swedish economy in 1996 to explore the subsequent development of skill returns, employment and skill composition.

Julian Johnsen (University of Bergen), *Intersecting Shocks: The Combined Labor Market Impacts of Automation and Immigration* (667)

We study how the labor market shocks of automation and immigration interact to shape workers' outcomes. Using matched employer–employee data from Norwegian administrative registers, we combine an immigration shock triggered by the European Union's 2004 enlargement with an automation shock based on the adoption of industrial robots across Europe. Although these shocks largely occur in separate industries, we show that automation reduces earnings not only in manufacturing but also in construction, where tasks overlap with robot-exposed sectors. Importantly, workers jointly exposed to automation and immigration suffer earnings losses greater than those facing either shock in isolation. These losses are driven by downward occupational mobility into low-wage services and re-sorting into lower-premium firms. Even within the Norwegian welfare system, the ability of social insurance to offset these long-run earnings declines is limited. Our findings underscore the importance of analyzing labor market shocks jointly, rather than in isolation, to fully understand their distributional consequences.

Joseph Sabia (San Diego State University & Iza), *Robots and Crime* (446)

Leveraging county-level variation in exposure to industry-specific foreign-based robotics shocks, this study is the first to explore the relationship between U.S. robotics expansions and crime. Instrumental variables estimates show that a 10 percent increase in robotics exposure led to a 0.2 to 0.3 percent increase in property crime arrests. In contrast, we find little evidence of a relationship between robotics expansions and violent crime. Our estimates are consistent with robotics-induced declines in employment and earnings among low-skilled manufacturing workers. A back-of-the-envelope calculation suggests that during the period over which robotics exposure induced adverse employment effects, such exposure generated approximately \$322 million (2024\$) in additional crime costs nationally.

Steven Stillman (Free University of Bozen-bolzano), *Will Automation and AI Steal Your Job? Public Opinion and Technological Change* (187)

Technological change such as automation and Artificial Intelligence (AI) is bound to reshape labor market in advanced economies. However, AI-targeted policies still do not figure prominently in political parties' platforms nor in political communication. In this paper, we run a survey experiment with representative samples from three countries (Germany, Italy and the US, N=11,418) to first investigate whether there is a demand for AI-targeted policies, and then examine how political narratives affect this demand. We find that narratives shape demand for policies in intuitive directions, a techno-optimistic narrative triggers demand for policies that support AI, while a techno-pessimistic narrative spurs demand for policies mitigating potential negative impacts. However, we also find that exposure to narratives reduces individual willingness to be mobilized and sign a petition on Change.org and de-facto reduces polarization on the topic.

Bias and Discrimination (U1)

Ellen Sahlström (Aalto University), The Extent and Consequences of Teacher Biases Against Immigrants (315)

We study the extent and consequences of biases against immigrants exhibited by high school teachers in Finland by comparing scores assigned by teachers and blind graders who score the exact same student responses. While the average teacher shows little sign of bias, we document substantial variation in bias across teachers. Most importantly, we show that immigrant students who attend schools with more biased teachers are less likely to continue to higher education. Further, we highlight that the consequences of biased teachers may stem both directly from contact with students and indirectly from immigrants avoiding subjects taught by biased teachers.

Maike Schlosser (University of Konstanz), Unveiling Bias in Legal Decision-Making: Evidence from Legal Education (375)

An extensive body of economic research documents ethnicity-and gender-based biases in judicial decision-making across countries. This is striking given the extensive training legal professionals receive to promote objective and impartial reasoning. An open question is whether such biases already exist among law students—future legal professionals—and whether they change over the course of legal education. We address this question using a preregistered online survey experiment conducted at German universities, in which approximately 3,000 law students evaluated criminal-law cases. We randomized only the defendant's name to signal either ethnicity or gender, while holding all case facts constant. Pooled across cases, defendants with ethnic minority-sounding names receive significantly harsher evaluations and sentencing recommendations than those with German-sounding names. In contrast, defendants with female-sounding names receive more lenient evaluations and sentencing recommendations than male-named counterparts. These patterns closely mirror disparities documented in empirical studies of real-world court decisions. We find no significant differences in these biases across students at different stages of legal education, suggesting that legal training neither mitigates nor raises awareness of such biases, which may therefore persist into professional practice. We also document heterogeneity by student characteristics: female students exhibit in-group favoritism when evaluating female-named defendants, while students from Muslim-majority countries assign harsher evaluations to defendants with ethnic minority-sounding names. Taken together, our findings provide evidence of ethnicity-and gender-based disparities in law-student decision-making and highlight the need for targeted educational interventions aimed at reducing reliance on extraneous cues in legal judgment.

Arnaud Chevalier (Royal Holloway), Fantasy or Reality of Discrimination (543)

We exploit data from the weekly hiring and firing decisions of more than 2 million participants in the Fantasy Premier League (FPL) - an on-line management game based on the English Premier League - to test Becker's predictions regarding taste-based racial discrimination in a dynamic environment. FPL includes the weekly productivity of all potential employees and exogenously fixed prices, making animus against racial minorities the main source of employers' discrimination. Since most weekly hiring and firing decisions relate to superstars, the analysis focuses on the top 10% performers. Contrary to Rosen (1981), we report discrimination among the most productive workers. However, the productivity losses of discriminating participants are limited, as elite footballers of all ethnicities are close substitutes.

Aspasia Bizopoulou (), Anti-Discrimination Policy and the Careers of Young Women (644)

Anti-discrimination laws are the primary policy tool to improve the socioeconomic outcomes of disadvantaged or marginalized groups, but their effectiveness remains poorly understood. We study the long-run consequences of landmark anti-discrimination policies across OECD countries. We use variation across states and cohorts in exposure to these laws to show that they are important determinants of career trajectories. Women are more likely to enter higher education when they can expect less discrimination in the labor markets throughout their careers. This increase in higher education participation is driven by women entering previously male dominated fields in business, law and social sciences but not in STEM. We also show evidence that these laws help equalize the education and field choices of men and women across the talent distribution. In the long-term, these translate to higher labor force participation and earnings.

Immigration: Causes and Effects (U3)

David Escamilla-Guerrero (University of St Andrews), The Short- and Long-Run Effects of Transportation Infrastructure on International Migration (252)

This paper leverages the rise and fall of railroad passenger transportation in Mexico to (1) estimate the impact of railroad access on initial migration patterns to the United States and (2) evaluate its persistence long after passenger transportation became obsolete due to the expansion of paved roads and the emergence of commercial aviation. Using an IV strategy based on least cost paths, historical border crossing records, and present-day migration surveys, we find that, in the early twentieth century, districts with railroad access had twice the migration rates of those without access. This difference is largely explained by increased population mobility toward the north, reflected in higher stage migration rates and higher shares of stage migrants. Today, municipalities with historical access to railroads continue to have about 1.8 more stage migrants per thousand inhabitants and 10 percentage points higher shares of stage migrants than those without access. In locations with historical railroad access, migrant-assisting institutions emerged over time, which continue to attract and

channel stage migrants, creating persistent migration corridors that have endured for over a century despite fundamental changes in transportation technology.

Kalina Georgieva (Institute For Employment Research (IAB)), Effects of the Minimum Wage on Immigration (341)

We study the impact of the minimum wage on immigration exploiting the first-time introduction of a national minimum wage in Germany in 2015. Exploiting regional variation in exposure to the reform and social security data, we estimate its causal effect on the number and composition of immigrant workers. We find significant positive effects for workers from Eastern European Union (EU) countries, consistent with a strong indirect “bite” of the German minimum wage in these countries and free labor mobility within the EU. The reform increased the inflow of immigrants from Eastern EU countries to Germany by 23,000 workers or 15% in the short run. The new inflows were exclusively low-to medium-skilled. The minimum wage affected neither immigrant outflows nor the internal migration of incumbent immigrants within Germany. The employment of native German workers was also unaffected. Immigration responses were strongest in local labor markets characterized by high pre-reform employment concentration, consistent with the idea that minimum wages may attract immigrants to monopsonistic labor markets. We rationalize our findings using a simple framework based on the Roy-Borjas model of immigration.

Jonas Søndergaard Sørensen (Aarhus Universitet), Expanding Europe - Immigration and Low-Skilled Labour Market Outcomes (74)

Recent EU expansions gave millions of workers from the new member states (EU13) access to the EU labour market. This paper examines the role of immigration from EU13 on the labour market outcomes of native Danish workers. Using a continuous difference-in-difference design, I show that larger municipal exposure to work permit EU13 migration reduces earnings of low-skilled natives, with five-to fifteen-year elasticities ranging from 1.7 to 5.6 % reductions in annual real earnings per pp. increase in the EU13 migration rate scaled by the initial working-age population. Within-sector analysis reveal that workers in the administrative service sector are most harmed by migration, while retail and transport workers also face negative effects on earnings. Baseline results indicate that employment remains unaffected, but some robustness tests, including a model where I assign migration exposure at commuting zone level, show negative employment effects. Extension of the analysis to other groups of workers shows that medium-and high-skilled workers as well as pre-existing EU immigrants are unaffected by EU13 migration. Estimated effects on non-EU/EEA, Anglo-Saxon immigrants’ earnings and employment estimates are consistently negative and large, although imprecise.

Suncica Vujic (University of Antwerp), International Student Migration: Did Brexit Close the Door to EU Students? (723)

This paper examines the effect of the Brexit process on international student migration from the European Union (EU) to the United Kingdom (UK). Using administrative data on higher education students in the UK, we employ a dynamic and a synthetic difference-in-differences estimator to compare EU to non-EU students. We show that the Brexit referendum itself and the introduction of visa requirements did not affect EU student migration. However, the introduction of higher tuition fees led to a large reduction in EU student applications to UK universities and colleges, and, subsequently, a decline in place offers, student acceptances, and enrolments. The effect ranges from 48% to 64%. Our findings suggest that increased tuition fees acted as a deterrent for EU students wanting to study in the UK.

Fertility in International Comparison (U4)

Francesca Carta (Banca D'italia), The Second Demographic Transition in Europe - Italy (686)

This study introduces the Italian component of a cross-country project comparing long-term fertility trends across Europe and the United States. The goal is to create harmonized, cohort-based measures for cross-country comparisons of childbearing levels, timing, and dispersion. Italy, with its low fertility and late family formation, is central to this effort due to the significant policy debates surrounding these trends. Using a variety of data sources - including historical series, census microdata, and household surveys - this study constructs a comprehensive picture of fertility trends over the last century. We first present period indicators, such as the total fertility rate (TFR) and general fertility rate (GFR), then move to cohort-specific metrics more relevant for economic analysis. These include completed childbearing, parity distribution, childlessness prevalence, median age at first birth and marriage, and non-marital birth rates. These metrics are further disaggregated by education, marital status, and socioeconomic status. By focusing on cohorts rather than periods, we aim to better understand changes in family size and fertility dispersion across generations - insights that period rates alone cannot provide. The cross-country comparison will highlight commonalities and differences in fertility patterns across countries with diverse institutional settings. This will also be contextualized by major socioeconomic factors such as contraception access, abortion laws, childcare availability, and labor market structure. The primary objective is to provide a deeper analysis of the Second Demographic Transition in Europe, ultimately contributing to more informed policy design.

Maarit Olkkola (Vatt Institute For Economic Research), Family Formation in Finland Over the 20th Century (424)

We use representative register-and census-based microdata to document demographic trends for 20th century female cohorts in Finland. We present two main sets of results. First, we describe overall trends in completed childbearing, childlessness, and age at first birth among native-born Finnish women born between 1906 and 1978. Second, we document how

these trends differ by education groups. In the aggregate, completed fertility and the share of childless women declined markedly among cohorts born in the early 20th century, and then remained relatively stable among the cohorts born since 1940. By contrast, age at first birth experienced first a large decline and then an even larger increase. When comparing the lowest and highest educated quintiles, we find that initially large differences in completed fertility and childlessness converge by mid-century cohorts. However, age at first birth displays a large divergence between education groups during the period.

Gylfi Zoega (University of Iceland and Birkbeck Business School), Gender Gaps in Education and Rising Housing Costs: Explaining Icelandic Fertility Decline through Assortative Matching (519)

Fertility in the Nordic countries has traditionally been high, supported by generous welfare systems in egalitarian societies that make it easier to combine work and family life. Yet over the past decade, fertility has fallen sharply and has remained below replacement level in Iceland. We use population-wide administrative data on tax returns and educational attainment for all tax-liable individuals in Iceland from 2014 to 2022 to examine what drives this decline. Exploiting variation across cohorts and over time within individuals, we uncover causal links between social and economic conditions and fertility outcomes. The decline is mainly due to delayed first births and a lower likelihood of third births. Two mechanisms stand out: an educational mismatch, with women making up around 70% of university graduates and an even higher share in some fields, which reduces the formation of young couples in an assortative mating market, and rising housing costs, which make starting a family more expensive. Even in a generous welfare context in an egalitarian society, these structural and economic factors can have a clear, causal impact on fertility, with lessons for other Nordic countries facing similar trends.

Kjell G. Salvanes (), Fertility Dynamics in Norway (655)

This paper documents long-run fertility dynamics in Norway using administrative and historical data covering 1848–2021, with cohort analyses for individuals born 1920–1980. We examine trends in completed fertility, age at first birth, childlessness, and family size, with particular attention to differences by education, gender, and geography. Norwegian fertility patterns closely mirror those observed in other high-income countries, including the baby boom and subsequent decline. However, the socioeconomic gradient in fertility has shifted substantially over time. Highly educated women had fewer children than less educated women for mid-century cohorts, but this gap has reversed for more recent cohorts, reflecting a slower fertility decline among the highly educated. In contrast, highly educated men consistently have more children and lower rates of childlessness than less educated men. Rising childlessness, especially among less educated individuals, plays a central role in recent fertility decline. We also show that publicly subsidized IVF contributes meaningfully to cohort differences and that fertility behavior exhibits strong intergenerational persistence across three generations.

Libertad González (Universitat Pompeu Fabra), A Century of Fertility Change in Spain (578)

I document long-run changes in completed fertility in Spain. Using microdata from the 1991, 2001, and 2011 Censuses, complemented with two recent surveys, I reconstruct completed fertility for cohorts of women born between 1910 and 1980. I analyze trends overall and by education quartiles, which I use as a proxy for social class. The results show that completed fertility in Spain rose modestly among early cohorts, from around 2.4 children for women born in the 1910s to 2.6 among those born in the 1930s, before starting a steep decline. Fertility fell to about 2 children for women born in the 1950s and to below 1.5 for those born in the 1970s, marking a substantial departure from replacement-level fertility. The decline is due to more women having exactly 2 children and fewer having 3 or more, rather than from changes in the extensive margin. Educational gradients are large and persistent. Women in the lowest education quartile had close to 3.5 children in the 1930s cohorts, compared to around 2.2 among the most educated. By the 1960s cohorts, fertility had dropped to below 2 among the least educated and to below 1.5 among the most educated. These findings highlight how declines in completed fertility unfolded unevenly across social groups, with sharper reductions among lower-educated women.

Methodological Advances (U5)

Henri Salokangas (Finnish Institute For Health And Welfare), Health “Shocks” (641)

Adverse health events are a workhorse source of “plausibly exogenous” variation in empirical economics. Yet the label health shock is applied inconsistently, and many conditions may reflect non-random selection, anticipatory behavior, and violations of parallel trends. We develop a data-driven framework to quantify how causally informative different health events are, using nationwide Finnish administrative registers covering 1993–2022. We estimate over 1,000 difference-in-differences (DiD) specifications across roughly 170 diagnoses blocks within 15 diagnosis chapters, defining each health shock as an individual’s first hospitalization for a condition within the chapter. For each event, we measure selection (pre-diagnosis level gaps) and anticipation (pre-diagnosis trends) in earnings and health-related outcomes. The results reveal stark heterogeneity: many cancers and acute somatic hospitalizations show little evidence of pre-event divergence, whereas mental and behavioral disorders exhibit substantial selection and pronounced pre-diagnosis deterioration. To assess the credibility of DiD estimates, we implement HonestDiD, computing breakdown values M that indicate how large post-treatment deviations from parallel trends would need to be to make estimated effects include zero. This yields a transparent taxonomy ranging from highly robust, shock-like events to diagnoses for which estimated impacts are highly sensitive to modest violations of identifying assumptions. By systematically mapping pre-event dynamics and robustness across diagnoses, the paper provides a unified empirical basis for choosing credible health shocks and for strengthening causal inference in health, labor, and household economics.

Marco Schmandt (Tu Berlin), Random Placement but Real Bias (81)

A large literature in economics derives findings about group-level variables on individual outcomes from random placement settings. This paper highlights that resulting estimates may be considerably different from the causal effect of a change in the group variable. First, the set of control variables that is included in the specification can considerably alter the magnitude of the results. Second, onward mobility introduces additional bias. Based on a simple theoretical framework, we provide a checklist to identify the potential severity of these issues in any given setting. In our empirical analysis we apply our framework to novel administrative data on randomly placed refugees in Germany and confirm the importance of the maintained assumptions: depending on specification choices, we can even switch the signs of estimates of popular group-level variables, despite random placement. We discuss implications for the literature and alternative “ideal experiments”.

Anthony Lepinteur (University of Luxembourg), Measuring the Unmeasurable? Systematic Evidence on Scale Transformations in Subjective Survey Data (459)

Ordered response scales are ubiquitous in economics, but their interpretation rests on an untested assumption: that numerical labels reflect equal psychological intervals. The contribution of this paper is to provide a systematic assessment of this linearity assumption, developing a general framework to quantify how easily empirical results can be overturned when it is relaxed. Using original experimental data, we show that respondents use survey scales in ways that deviate from linearity, but only mildly so. Focusing on wellbeing research, we then replicate 40,000+ coefficient estimates across more than 80 papers published in top economics journals. Coefficient signs are remarkably robust to the mild departures from linear scale-use we document experimentally. However, estimates of relative effect sizes, which are crucial for policy applications, are unreliable even under these modest non-linearities.

David A. Jaeger (University of St Andrews), Robustness? Range Tests for Equality and Equivalence Across Specifications (739)

Applied economists routinely compare estimates across specifications, observe that they are "similar," and conclude that their results are "robust." This common practice is an implicit inferential claim about the range of estimates, but it ignores the joint sampling distribution of estimates computed from the same data. I formalize robustness claims and bring to them the same inferential discipline that the credibility revolution has brought to point estimation and inference. I propose two statistics to characterize robustness claims. The minimum equivalence bound, $\delta^*(\alpha)$, is the smallest tolerance within which the estimates can be judged equivalent at level α . The range-based equality p-value, p_R , asks whether the estimates are statistically distinguishable. The two statistics differ only in whether the bootstrap imposes a common probability limit, and together they distinguish lack of detectable differences from genuine agreement. Because the bootstrap captures the joint sampling distribution of the estimates, the framework avoids parametric covariance

estimation, does not require a privileged baseline specification, and applies whenever a joint bootstrap is feasible. Simulations show approximately correct size and demonstrate that informal eyeballing often provides false comfort. Applications to five prominent papers validate some conventional robustness claims while revealing fragility in others that is not apparent from casual inspection. I suggest that Δ^* and p_R be reported whenever multiple specifications are presented.

PhD Prize Session (U6)

Daniel Cunha Byström (University of Gothenburg), From Friends to ‘Family’, Schools, Neighborhoods, and Gang Recruitment (221)

This paper examines how gang-related criminal behavior spreads through extended family and peer networks, using newly linked Swedish administrative data covering over 18,000 individuals with confirmed gang affiliation. Within-family correlations reveal intergenerational transmission of gang-related criminal behavior, where parental criminal history accounts for only half of a broader latent ‘crime-family’ effect, and with older siblings explaining most of the remaining influence. Based on this, I study what I term ‘gateway peers’ – students whose older siblings have committed gang-related crimes – and estimate peer effects using quasi-random variation in cohort-to-cohort composition. Exposure in grade 7 significantly increases both general and gang-related offending in early adulthood, with effects concentrated within schools, not neighborhoods, and strongest when gateway peers share the students background. Excluding regions where gangs are not present, exposure also significantly increases the probability of being confirmed as gang affiliated after compulsory school. I provide additional evidence of a recruitment mechanism beyond just peer influence: spillovers disappear when gateway siblings are absent during the expected recruitment window, and exposed students are more likely to co-offend with gateway peers relatives and confirmed gang members. Exposure further reduces academic performance and increases the diagnosis of mood disorders among adolescents. The findings highlight the role of sibling-linked peer networks in shaping criminal trajectories and suggest that preventive interventions targeting school environments can help disrupt recruitment to organized crime.

Tamara Bogatzki (WZB Berlin Social Science Center), From Colonial Soldiers to Contemporary Migrants: Intergenerational Remittances from Historic Military Migration (448)

During World War II, France conscripted tens of thousands of young men from Senegal and other West African colonies to fight as soldiers, deploying many to Europe. Using original survey data collected in Senegal and among West Africans living in Germany, I study whether exposure to ancestral military service abroad continues to affect migration intentions, plans, and behaviour today. Exploiting the exogenous selection into recruitment via universal conscription, cross-validated with historic local recruitment intensity, I show that descendants of conscripted soldiers exhibit significantly higher emigration aspirations, plans, and behaviour. Importantly, the effect does not operate through persistent gains in education

or wealth, but through networks and the intergenerational transmission of values and moral narratives of colonial sacrifice. The results highlight that colonial military recruitment, an early, large-scale episode of enforced transcontinental migration, left a durable imprint on contemporary migration patterns.

Katharina Kaepfel (Paris School of Economics), The Causal Impact of Children? Rethinking the Identification and Estimation of Child Penalties (595)

A fast-growing literature estimates child penalties — the impact of parenthood on the labor market outcomes of mothers relative to fathers — using event study design. This paper clarifies the identification assumption underlying the most commonly used specification with event time, year, and age fixed effects, and shows that this approach is prone to bias in the presence of heterogeneity by age and calendar year, even under valid identification. I then propose an unbiased estimator, using the same identification framework. Applied to French administrative data, my estimates for mothers are 27% smaller than those using the standard approach. The paper also discusses identification under an alternative parallel trend assumption, that is, when controlling for individual unobserved heterogeneity, and highlights key trade-offs in defining counterfactuals, as one cannot simultaneously absorb individual heterogeneity, age, age at birth, and event time. I provide a framework to build an estimator step-by-step, which is easily adaptable depending on which comparisons researchers assess most appropriate. Finally, I document substantial heterogeneity by age at childbirth and novel evidence on the cost of fatherhood. By eight years after the birth of their first child, mothers aged 20–25 at birth lose 50% compared to their counterfactual earnings, compared to 12–20% for older mothers. Fathers aged 20–25 at first birth earn on average 26% less eight years later, while effects for older fathers are close to zero. These findings have important implications for both policy and applied research using event study designs to estimate the causal impact of children.

Christine Alamaa (Stockholm University), The Social Aspects of Job Competitions: Gender Gaps in Self-Assessment (681)

Professional competitions often impose stakes beyond material rewards by producing information with reputational and psychological consequences for participants. This paper studies how exposing individuals' competitive information affects how they state their rank beliefs, and whether these effects differ by gender. I propose a framework in which individuals incur psychological costs when inaccuracies in their self-beliefs are revealed, either privately or publicly, and test its predictions in a repeated laboratory experiment (N = 544). Without feedback or observability of belief accuracy, women assess themselves more moderately than men, while introducing public observability reduces overconfidence for both genders. In contrast, private feedback generates gender-specific learning patterns: women adjust more after overestimation, men after underestimation. Together, the findings suggest that belief exposure as a distinct social mechanism in competition helps explain how gender differences in self-assessment emerge and persist in labour markets.

Crime: Causes and Effects (U7 PWC)

Martti Kaila (University of Glasgow), The Impacts of Guaranteed Basic Income on Crime Perpetration and Victimization (657)

This paper provides the first experimental evidence on the impact of providing a guaranteed basic income on criminal perpetration and victimization. We analyze a nationwide randomized controlled trial that provided 2,000 unemployed individuals in Finland with an unconditional monthly payment of 560 euros for two years (2017-2018), while 173,222 comparable individuals remained under the existing social safety net. Using comprehensive administrative data on police reports and district court trials, we estimate precise zero effects on criminal perpetration and victimization. Point estimates are small and statistically insignificant across all crime categories. Our confidence intervals rule out reductions in perpetration larger than 5 percent for crime reports and 10 percent for criminal charges.

Hikaru Kawarazaki (Institute For Fiscal Studies), A Rotten Apple: Peer Effects of Criminal Exposure in Schools (504)

A child's peers are a vital determinant of their performance at school. While it has been well documented that being exposed to disruptive peers can have adverse effects on educational outcomes, little is known about the impact of being exposed to a peer with a criminal background. In this paper, leveraging a rich administrative dataset that links crime and education records for nearly the entire universe of school students in England, I study the extent to which criminality spreads within schools from juvenile criminal peers. Exploiting the plausibly random timing of school transfers of students with a criminal record, I find that exposure to a criminal peer increases the peer's probability of starting a criminal career by 6.4% within four months of transfer. Furthermore, exposure to a peer with an offense record has an adverse effect on educational attainment, with approximately one quarter of the observed decline attributable to direct exposure effects, and the remaining three quarters mediated through engaging in criminal behavior.

Joanna Clifton-Sprigg (University of Bath), Love Thy Neighbour? Brexit and Hate Crime (384)

This paper examines the impact of the Brexit referendum on hate crime in England and Wales, providing new insights into its magnitude and drivers. First, we show that the observed increase was not driven by changes in reporting or police practices but reflected a genuine behavioural shift. Second, the rise was concentrated in public order offences and property-related crimes, with no significant increase in violence against persons. Third, the spike was temporary, confined to the first quarter post-referendum, and likely mitigated by government intervention, such as tougher sentencing for hate crime. Finally, we find the increase was driven primarily by national information shocks rather than localised dynamics, with larger effects in Leave areas and no significant impact in Scotland. Using synthetic control methods (SCM) with LASSO (SCUL), regression discontinuity in time (RDiT), and disaggregated analyses, we estimate a 29–50% rise in hate crime attributable to the referendum.

Stefanie Schurer (University of Sydney), Pretrial Detention Decisions and Their Consequences for Juvenile Offenders in New South Wales (714)

This paper provides novel evidence on the causal effect of pretrial detention on immediate case outcomes for juvenile defendants. Using detailed contact-level court records from 2015 to 2023 in New South Wales, we exploit quasi-random magistrate assignment and instrument each defendant's earliest court bail decision with a jackknife measure of magistrate leniency. Two-stage least squares estimates reveal robust, statistically significant evidence that pretrial release reduces the probability of being found guilty by 32.95 percentage points, *ceteris paribus*. This effect is economically significant, corresponding to a decrease of 39.5% relative to the baseline probability. We find no significant effects on conviction and imprisonment. However, heterogeneities emerged when separating the sample by socioeconomic status, suggesting that children from disadvantaged areas may be disproportionately harmed by pretrial detention. Taken together, our findings imply that procedural practices can shape case outcomes independently of the initial conduct of the accused. Given the cyclical nature of the criminal justice system, decision makers should be mindful of these individual costs when subjecting juveniles to pretrial detention.

Friday, 12th of June

Parallel Sessions F (9:30–11:00)

Early Childhood Investments (V001)

Gabriel Romero (Universitat De Les Illes Balears), From Womb to Early Years: How Chile Crece Contigo Builds Human Capital (478)

This paper studies the impact of Chile Crece Contigo (ChCC), a large-scale early childhood policy in Chile, on children's health, cognitive skills, and socio-emotional development. ChCC combines prenatal and postnatal health services with parental support and targeted social assistance to foster child development from gestation onward. We combine administrative information on the staggered municipal rollout of the program with data from the Encuesta Longitudinal de Primera Infancia (ELPI). To capture the multidimensional and latent nature of early human capital, we estimate a human capital production function that jointly models health, cognitive skills, socio-emotional skills, and parental investments using multiple noisy measures. Identification exploits temporal and geographic variation in exposure to ChCC across birth cohorts and municipalities. We find that exposure to ChCC during pregnancy improves health at birth and generates significant gains in early childhood cognitive and socio-emotional skills. The estimated effects are economically meaningful and persist across early childhood. Improvements in early health play a central role, both directly and by increasing the productivity of parental investments. Consistent with this mechanism, we find that the program increases parental investments in early stimulation and learning activities.

Patrick Wing McHale (University of Galway), Age-Set Culture and Parental Investment: Evidence from Uganda (308)

We examine how cultural norms governing societal structure, specifically age-set organisation, shape the human capital investments parents make in their children. By implementing a spatial regression discontinuity design to exploit variation in the prevalence of age-set organisation among ethnic groups in Uganda, we show that children in age-set societies receive greater human capital investments in early childhood. Greater investments correspond to improved health and education outcomes. Yet these differences in outcomes dissipate during adolescence, as children reach the typical age of initiation into age-set social structures. Consistent with parents playing a smaller role in shaping their children's human capital after age-set initiation, we find that the introduction of universal secondary education had no effect on the education of children in age-set societies.

Measuring Income and Poverty (V002)

Torsten Figueiredo Walter (Nyuad), The Missing Poor (45)

Population censuses constitute the basis of public resource allocation and political representation in many countries. This paper shows that census forms commonly generate incentives for enumerators to disproportionately omit members of larger households. Using microdata from 254 censuses, we estimate that this leads to undercounting in 60% of censuses. Omission is concentrated in poor countries where 0.6% of the population is missing. Within countries, poor households are missing three times as many members as rich ones, leading to larger undercounts in poorer regions. We illustrate how this translates into systematic underfunding of public services and political underrepresentation in poor regions.

Annelies Tulkens (KU Leuven), Intra-Household Allocation and Individual Poverty for Belgian Households from 1999 to 2022 (580)

Standard poverty measures rely on household-level resources and implicitly assume equal sharing within families. This paper relaxes that assumption and studies how household resources are allocated between men, women, and children in Belgium over the period 1999–2022. Using repeated cross-sections from the Belgian Household Budget Survey, we estimate individual resource shares within a collective household framework. We use the model of Lechene, Pendakur & Wolf (2022). Identification exploits assignable expenditures on clothing, a linearised Engel-curve approach, and weak similarity of adult preferences proposed by Blundell et al. (2025), while correcting for infrequent purchases using an Infrequency of Purchase Model from Blundell & Meghir (1978). We provide the first long-run evidence on the evolution of intra-household resource allocation for children. In households with two adults and children, men consistently receive the largest share of resources, followed by women, with children receiving the smallest share. These allocation patterns are remarkably stable over time, including during major economic shocks such as the global financial crisis and the COVID-19 pandemic. In single-mother households, women's resource shares increase

modestly over time, while children's shares decline slightly. We use the estimated resource shares to construct individual-level consumption measures and corresponding poverty indicators. Regression analysis shows that education and labour market attachment are strongly protective against individual poverty, while significant regional disparities persist.

Martin Biewen (University of Tübingen), Using Distributional Random Forests for the Analysis of the Income Distribution (523)

This paper utilises distributional random forests as a flexible machine learning method for analysing income distributions. Distributional random forests avoid parametric assumptions, capture complex interactions among covariates, and, once trained, provide full estimates of conditional income distributions. From these, any type of distributional index such as measures of location, inequality and poverty risk can be readily computed. They can also efficiently process grouped income data and be used as inputs for distributional decomposition methods. We consider four types of applications: (i) estimating income distributions for granular population subgroups, (ii) analysing distributional change over time, (iii) spatial smoothing of income distributions, and (iv) purging spatial income distributions of differences in spatial characteristics. Our application based on the German Microcensus provides new results on the socio-economic and spatial structure of the German income distribution.

Job Search and Recruitment (T003)

Takshil Sachdev (Cornell University), Understanding Workers' Migration Response to Shocks: Mass Layoffs in Brazil (156)

This paper investigates the impact of unexpected employment shocks on workers' migration decisions using matched employer-employee data from Brazil's formal sector. Leveraging an event-study design, we find that workers who separate from their firm during a mass layoff face a significant and persistent 10% decline in their earnings relative to non-laid-off workers. We also find that laid-off workers are 15 percentage points more likely to migrate to another labor market. While all laid-off workers migrate at higher rates than non-laid-off workers, we find that men migrate at higher rates than women, and that non-white workers migrate more than white workers. We explain these patterns through a descriptive exercise comparing wage trajectories of migrant and non-migrant laid-off workers. We find 1.5% higher earnings among migrants than stayers, with almost all gains concentrated among men and larger gains among non-white workers. We complement our empirical evidence with a location-choice model that delivers a gravity equation for bilateral migration flows. Gravity estimates indicate that a one-standard-deviation increase in layoff intensity raises flows out of the origin by roughly 1-3%. Taken together, the findings show that mass layoffs trigger substantial but selective geographic reallocation, and that unequal access to migration shapes the distributional consequences of employment shocks.

Michael Oberfichtner (Institute for Employment Research (IAB) & FAU), The Wage Elasticity of Recruitment (145)

One of the factors likely to affect the market power of employers is the sensitivity of the flow of recruits to the offered wage, but there is very little research on this. This paper presents a methodology for estimating the wage elasticity of recruitment and applies it to German data. Our estimates of the wage elasticity of recruitment are about 1.4. We also report evidence that high-wage employers are more selective in hiring, in which case the relevant recruitment elasticity should be higher, about 2.2. Together with prior estimates of the quit elasticity these results imply that wages are 72–77% of the marginal revenue product of labour. Further, we find lower elasticities for recruits hired from non-employment as well as for women, non-German nationals, non-prime-age workers, less skilled workers, and workers with less complex jobs. We also find that our estimates are robust to controlling for non-wage employer amenities and the hiring activity of employers.

Judith Delaney (University of Bath), The Effect of Wages on Job Vacancy Duration: Evidence from a Spatial Discontinuity (708)

We exploit a spatial discontinuity in the wages paid by the United Kingdom's National Health Service to examine how wages affect the duration of time a vacancy is advertised. NHS workers in inner London are mandated by law to be paid 4.3% more than those who work in outer London. We use a regression discontinuity design and estimate an elasticity of duration with respect to wages of -6.3. This number is larger than reported by previous studies and suggests that firms can fill worker shortages faster by raising wages. This also highlights the importance of this margin of worker recruitment when analysing firm search and job match. Our results are robust to various checks including a placebo test using fictitious borders and are robust to changes in the bandwidth and the duration measure. The estimates are similar across all occupational groups in the NHS and are not limited to jobs that require specific skills such as nurses and therapists. Our results provide evidence for policy makers which suggests that increasing the wages paid to NHS workers may lead to increased cost savings by reducing the need to hire expensive agency staff.

Temporary and Forced Migration (T004)

David Zuchowski (University of Valencia), Under Pressure? Forced Migration and Public Health (469)

Large-scale forced migration can put pressure on local public services, especially in developing countries with limited fiscal and institutional capacity. This paper examines how the inflow of Venezuelan refugees affects local healthcare outcomes and municipal public finances within Brazil's decentralized universal healthcare system. We exploit cross-municipality variation in refugee exposure and use distance to the country's only official border crossing with Venezuela as an instrument. Our findings show that municipalities with stronger exposure to the inflow of refugees experience a deterioration in local health

outcomes. Furthermore, we find that healthcare spending does not keep pace with the rise in demand in affected municipalities. This reflects the relatively poor health of incoming refugees and congestion in the healthcare system. Municipalities finance the increased healthcare costs using their own revenues, diverting resources from other sectors, particularly education. Our findings emphasize the limitations of decentralized health systems in absorbing large, concentrated migration shocks and highlight the need for stronger national support.

Wen-Hao Chen (National Taipei University), Restricting Temporary Foreign Labour: Evidence on Firm Productivities from Canada's 2014 Policy Reform (194)

Canada's 2014 tightening of the Temporary Foreign Worker Program offers a nationwide test of how restricting temporary migration affects firm performance. Using linked employer–employee records, we compare firms with greater versus lesser pre-reform reliance on temporary foreign workers and track outcomes over time, cross-checking results with alternative approaches and productivity measures. Three findings stand out. (1) On average, the reform did not reduce productivity; more-exposed firms experienced modest, gradual gains in labour productivity, especially in lower-skill streams. (2) Effects are uneven: gains are smaller in firms that already employ many immigrants and vary across sectors and regions. (3) Results depend on the measure—revenue per worker declines slightly for more TFW-reliant firms, consistent with price/markup adjustments. The study provides the first national, firm-level evidence on a major temporary-migration reform, using linked data and exposure-based identification, and clarifies where gains and trade-offs arise for policy.

Carola Stapper (Johannes Kepler University Linz), The Forced Melting Pot: Temporary Migration and International Cooperation (444)

This paper examines the effects of temporary migration on international cooperation. We explore this question within the context of forced migration in Germany during World War II. We exploit the quasi-random distribution of temporary migrants across German counties, which was not determined by prior migration patterns or existing ties. We find that a greater presence of temporary migrants from a given country increases social connectivity as well as the number of firm links and joint patents between German counties and the forced migrants' countries of origin in the post-war period. We further show that this effect persists when ties are institutionalized via town twinning. These findings show that even coercive, temporary migration can foster lasting international cooperation when embedded in formal institutions.

(Mis)perception and Self-Knowledge (U006)

Jana Schuetz (Jönköping International Business School), Stereotypes, Financial Literacy, and Confidence: An Information Provision Experiment (107)

Financial literacy is an important prerequisite for making informed financial decisions, but it remains low, especially among women and older people. Internalized stereotypes can undermine confidence and subsequently affect behavior in financial matters, leading to suboptimal decisions. This paper investigates how stereotype salience affects confidence in financial literacy. In an information provision experiment, we inform respondents about age or gender differences in numeracy to examine the impact on financial literacy, confidence, hypothetical investment and saving decisions, and demand for information and education. We find that being informed about age differences has no significant effect. In contrast, being informed about gender differences increases the confidence of male respondents through a stereotype boost, while leaving female respondents largely unaffected.

Daniel Goller (University of Bern), Imperfect Self-Knowledge About Skills and Skill Mismatch (264)

Why do young people sort into poorly fitting occupations? This paper shows that imperfect self-knowledge about skills is a quantitatively important source of skill mismatch at labor market entry. Using unique data from standardized professional aptitude tests linked to administrative records on educational trajectories and early labor market outcomes in Switzerland, we observe skills and subjective skill beliefs across a large number of productivity-relevant skills in a high-stakes setting. We document large differences in how well subjective beliefs align with skills across individuals and show that imperfect self-knowledge predicts misaligned occupational aspirations, higher realized skill mismatch, and increased dropout. Guided by a Roy-style model of occupational choice with imperfect self-knowledge, we interpret these patterns as evidence that distorted self-assessments at the school-to-work transition contribute to the misallocation of talent.

Deborah Cobb-Clark (University of Sydney), The Conceptual Foundations of Self-Control and the Link to Impulsivity and Attention* (49)

Self-control, attention, and impulsivity jointly support goal-directed behavior yet are often examined in isolation with heterogeneous measures. We integrate validated self-reported scales with a hybrid, incentivized behavioral task that synthesizes two canonical experimental designs and adds novel extensions to measure these constructs in a typical work context. Using data from a preregistered four-session online study (N = 443 adults), we characterize the cross-relationships and the relationships between different measures of self-control, attention, and impulsivity and evaluate their contributions to effort allocation over time. More broadly, the study advances an emerging research program that leverages laboratory settings with well-structured economic incentives to examine the role of personality traits and cognitive limitations in economic decision making.

Taxes and Benefits (U1)

Marina Ligato (Université Libre De Bruxelles - Dulbea), Ligato Personalized Benefit Simulators and Work Incentives in Social Insurance (693)

Social security systems feature complex tax and benefit rules and limited scope for individualized counseling. We distinguish between awareness of rules (general, static information) and computational complexity (personalized, interactive information). We develop an online benefit simulator and test its effects in a randomized field experiment. Providing generalized information has no impact on behavior, while reducing computational complexity through the simulator increases returns to work among claimants by 2.8 percentage points after one year. Simulation evidence shows that work incentives are difficult to compute and highly heterogeneous across claimants. Our results suggest that personalization is a more effective lever than salience in complex policy environments, pointing to a high-return role for digital counseling tools in social insurance.

Simon Muchardt (University of Copenhagen / University Paris Dauphine - Psl), Tax Incentives or Political Motivations? Evidence from Corporate Contributions (680)

Corporate philanthropy has been increasing in Western democracies in recent decades, a rise often explained by the development of tax policies offering substantial incentives to donate to charities. Yet, corporate philanthropy is also increasingly perceived as a means to influence politics. In this paper, we estimate the tax price elasticity of corporate donations, and investigate how it differs depending on the recipients' purposes and the donors' characteristics. To do so, we use an exhaustive administrative panel dataset on firms' tax returns in France from 2013 to 2022, including the identity of the charities that benefit from the donations, from which we recover their purpose using state-of-the-art NLP methods. Exploiting two reforms that affect the price of donations for firms, we document significant bunching around major regulatory thresholds. We then show that the tax-price elasticity varies significantly depending on the type of beneficiaries.

Rudolf Winter-Ebmer (Jku Linz, Austria), Income Taxes and Worker Shirking (204)

Do workers shirk to adjust short-run labor supply in response to higher income taxation? We test this hypothesis using a 2009 reform in the Austrian tax schedule that reduced marginal taxes in the middle of the income distribution. Based on linked register data, we find that a one percentage point decrease in the marginal tax rate reduces sick days by 10%, which amounts to roughly 10% of the taxable income elasticity. These effects are driven by easy-to-fake diagnoses; overall healthcare expenditures are not affected. Our findings have important implications for firms allocating labor resources and for the design of tax reforms.

Labour Market Trajectories (U3)

Selma Walther (University of Sussex), Dowry, Old-Age Support and Labour Supply Over the Lifecycle (122)

We study the complex interaction between dowry, old-age support and lifecycle choices over work and consumption in the context of India, where eldest sons are expected to provide old-age support. We begin by documenting novel facts around differences in economic welfare between households without sons and those with at least one son. Parents without sons are more likely to be hungry in old age, unhealthy and suffer from low body weight. These households also consume less and have fewer assets. We present a novel structural model that encompasses dynamic lifecycle decisions around work, consumption and children's marriage, taking into account social norms around dowry and old-age support. The model reproduces the main descriptive patterns.

Omar Bamieh (Universidad Andrés Bello), Work from Home and Child Penalties (627)

We study whether work from home (WFH) mitigates child penalties in the labor market. Using unique Austrian administrative data that record the number of days worked from home for the universe of employees since 2021, we document that mothers with young children substantially increase their use of WFH, while fathers do so to a much lesser extent. Exploiting the COVID-19 shock in a difference-in-differences design, we show that expanded access to WFH increases mothers' employment, earnings, and job continuity after childbirth. These effects operate primarily through higher rates of mothers returning to their pre-birth employers. Our findings suggest that remote work is a significant and low-cost policy lever to reduce child penalties.

Kamila Cygan-Rehm (Dresden University of Technology (TUD)), Work from Home and Labor Market Trajectories (423)

We exploit the sharp increase of work-from-home (WFH) arrangements in 2020 as a natural experiment to study the labor market responses among the most affected workers in subsequent years. Using German social security data linked to a measure of WFH potential at the 5-digit occupational level, we employ a dynamic difference-in-difference design to compare the career trajectories of individuals employed in occupations with high and low WFH potential by the end of 2019. Despite a protective employment effect, we find negative earnings responses to higher WFH potential, with increasing magnitudes over time and comparable losses across genders. Higher WFH potential induces greater occupational mobility toward part-time arrangements with lower job quality, suggesting a willingness to pay for remote work options.

Adolescent Education (U4)

Alberto Antonello (University of Amsterdam), Students' (Lack of) Strategic Behavior in the Amsterdam Secondary School Match (176)

In many centralized school assignment systems, students are required to submit ranked preference lists. Depending on the system's design, they may have incentives to fill out these lists strategically. Using register data from Amsterdam, this paper investigates how students respond to changes in strategic incentives following previously unexplored design reforms. After a 2016 reform that limited school priority to first-ranked choices, we document a marked increase in the share of students ranking their priority school first, an increase larger than predicted by simulations assuming optimal strategic behavior. In 2018, the introduction of a Placement Guarantee created a new incentive to manipulate rank-ordered lists. Yet, our analyses suggest that few students, if any, responded to this opportunity in a strategically sophisticated manner. Our findings also highlight the fragility of assignment mechanisms: even seemingly modest policy changes can erode properties such as strategy-proofness and produce unintended consequences. Simulations illustrate that if a larger share of students were to exploit the Placement Guarantee reform, the system could experience a sharp rise in the number of unassigned students, raising the risk of market collapse.

Robbie Maris (UCL Centre for Education Policy and Equalising Opportunities), Determinants of Success in Exam Retakes: Evidence from England's Resit Policy (602)

Exam retakes are common in education systems around the world. Yet, due to self-selection issues, there has been very little research on where, when and why exam retakes are successful. This is important to understand because often these exams provide important gateways to further education, employment and life outcomes for many young people. In this paper, we analyse the individual and institutional drivers of exam retake success. To overcome selection issues, we leverage the "resit policy" in England that effectively forces all upper-secondary students to retake exams in English and maths if they do not pass them the first-time round. We estimate value-add Mundlak models that evaluate how important and effective institutions are at delivering exam retakes. Our models also allow us to investigate the individual and institution-level characteristics that are associated with better performance on exam resits. We find significant disparities along socioeconomic, gender and ethnic lines, even after controlling for prior attainment. We show that the drivers of success vary between English and maths, with wider academic attainment being more influential for English than it is for maths. Our value-add estimates show institutions do matter and to a similar extent as other contexts. However, there is greater variability in institutional performance and more noise in retakes for English than there is for maths. Overall, our results shed new light on the drivers of success in exam retakes and point to some important areas of development for the resit policy in England.

Anna Piil Damm (Aarhus University), The Impact of Sheltered Instruction on Academic Achievement of Migrant Children (323)

Between 2011 and 2021, roughly half of all refugee children in Denmark entered school through sheltered instruction rather than direct placement in mainstream classrooms. This paper estimates the causal effect of sheltered instruction on academic achievement. The main challenge, non-random sorting into sheltered instruction, is addressed using exogenous variation from the Danish refugee dispersal policy, which allocates families to municipalities on a quasi-random basis. Refugee children placed in sheltered instruction are negatively selected on academic skills. After accounting for this selection, we find that sheltered instruction has positive impacts: children assigned to sheltered classes report higher well-being during their early schooling and achieve higher grades in the 9th grade exit examinations compared to peers placed directly in mainstream classrooms.

Preschool and Early Schooling (U5)

Thomas van Huizen (Utrecht University), Improving Preschool Quality for Disadvantaged Children (575)

Ensuring equal access to high-quality early childhood education remains a key policy challenge. This paper examines how pedagogical leaders (coaches) affect preschool quality and child development in a preschool setting targeting children from disadvantaged families. Leveraging a nationwide reform in the Netherlands and using unique data on classroom observations and early childhood development, we find that pedagogical leaders improved the quality of interactions between teachers and children. Furthermore, the policy increased the frequency of small group educational activities with disadvantaged children. Consistent with the evidence on preschool quality, our results indicate that the policy reform improved language development of disadvantaged children. However, there is no evidence of gains in executive functioning, social-emotional development and motor skills. Exploring potential channels, we document that affected teachers are more frequently coached, while ruling out alternative explanations such as changes in child and teacher composition, staff-child ratios, classroom composition, or other professional development activities.

Beatrice Schindler Rangvid (The Danish Center for Social Science Research - VIVE), When Funding Meets the Floor: Child-to-Staff Ratios and Staff Absence in Daycare (258)

More and more children around the world spend a significant part of their childhood in daycare (OECD, 2024). As early years are crucial for development and long-term outcomes (Garces et al., 2002), the quality of daycare becomes increasingly important. Research consistently highlights preschool teachers as a key quality indicator: motivated teachers foster positive learning environments, while stable caregiver-child relationships support emotional security and development (Love et al., 2003; OECD, 2024). In contrast, high turnover and sickness-related absences undermine daycare quality (Kusma et al., 2012; Herman & Gooze, 2013). Exploiting variation from a targeted policy that increased funding to

improve staff-to-child ratios in selected ECEC centers, we estimate the effect of improved funding on preschool teachers' sickness absence. We find that the policy reduced sick absence by 2.3 hours per month—corresponding to a 17 % reduction relative to baseline—within the first year of implementation.

Audrey Bousselin (Luxembourg Institute of Socio-Economic Research), Early Childhood Investments and the School-Entry Age Penalties: Evidence from Linked Administrative Data (598)

We examine whether expanded access to subsidized childcare reduces the school-age age-penalty by children who are young-for-grade due to rigid school-entry cutoffs. Using linked administrative data covering the population of public-school pupils in Luxembourg, we exploit two sources of quasi-experimental variation: a strict September 1 school-entry cutoff and a large expansion of subsidized childcare introduced in 2009. Combining a regression-discontinuity design with variation in childcare expansion across municipalities, we document three findings. First, children entering school younger due to the cutoff are 10-15 percentage points more likely to repeat a grade. Second, this school-age entry penalty is reduced by approximately 40 percent in municipalities that experienced larger childcare expansions. Third, the reduction in the school-entry age penalty is concentrated among disadvantaged children and those from migrant backgrounds. These findings provide evidence that early investments can partially offset institutional disadvantages generated by rigid school-entry rules.

Costs of University (U6)

Luke Walsh (University of Liverpool), Investing in Your Future? How the Cost of University Shapes Labour Market Outcomes (31)

Reducing subsidies to higher education raises concerns about people's willingness to invest in human capital, yet little is known about these effects in settings without credit constraints. I exploit a natural experiment in which the UK government substantially reduced subsidies by raising the price control on university tuition fees to estimate the causal impact on enrolment and early-career labour market outcomes using a difference-in-discontinuities design. The evidence shows that higher tuition fees reduced overall university enrolment, primarily through a fall in participation at less selective institutions, consistent with students becoming more responsive to expected returns. Students from low-income backgrounds were not disproportionately affected, likely due to the UK's income-contingent loan system, which mitigates credit constraints. Overall, the cohort affected by the reform was significantly more likely to enter higher-paying industries by age 25. These findings provide new evidence that a reduction in state subsidies to higher education can reshape, rather than diminish, human-capital investment when supported by a progressive loan system.

Cécile Bonneau (Aalto University), Price of Admission: The Impact of Application Fees on Top Students (127)

This study examines the impact of application fees on application behavior, admission, and enrollment outcomes among a highly selective student population—applicants to STEM graduate schools in France. Using a regression discontinuity design and administrative data from the centralized admission process between 2015 and 2024, the findings show that candidates required to pay application fees submit substantially fewer applications (60%), reducing their overall probability of admission to any STEM graduate school by 15%. However, fee-paying candidates, who take fewer entrance exams, are significantly more likely to gain admission to the most selective programs, suggesting a quantity–quality trade-off in application decisions. Fee-paying candidates are also less likely to enroll in a STEM graduate school within the following three academic years and more likely to enroll in university programs, though these programs appear to be equally selective and to offer comparable labor market prospects.

Nuria Rodriguez-Planas (Universitat De Barcelona), Inflation and Human Capital Investment Decisions (168)

This study investigates the impact of inflation on human capital investments. Using a specially designed instrument to estimate the causal effect of inflation on the graduation plans of 1,200 US university students, we find that inflation caused over half of the respondents to alter their plans, with nearly 60% of these opting to accumulate less human capital, while the remainder increased their human capital. A comparison of empirical treatment estimates to predictions from our theoretical framework reveals that inflation-driven higher direct costs reduced human capital investment while inflation-induced uncertainty in the post-graduation labor market generally caused greater human capital accumulation.

Parallel Sessions G (11:30–13:00)

Reproductive Health (V001)

Sofia Sara Abrahamsson (Norwegian Institute of Public Health), Abortion and Mental Health: Short-Term Distress, Long-Term Recovery (223)

Abortion remains one of the most contested issues in women’s health and reproductive rights. Using high-quality Norwegian administrative data, we estimate the effect of abortion on women’s mental health in a setting with legal and widely accessible abortion. We exploit variation in the timing of abortion within a stacked difference-in-differences framework. We find a temporary increase in mental health-related GP visits around the time of abortion, particularly for abortions after week 12, with effects dissipating within 1–2 years. Among women without children, mental health improves in the medium term; this improvement occurs alongside increased separations and is partly explained by subsequent childbirth.

Overall, we find no evidence of persistent mental health deterioration following abortion, underscoring the importance of short-term support rather than restrictive policies.

Mayra Pineda-Torres (Georgia Institute Of Technology), The Consequences of Abortion Funding Bans (87)

Do restrictions on public funding create unintended reliance on social assistance? In this paper, we study the 1976 Hyde Amendment, which barred federal funding for abortion. Using county-level data and an event-study design, we show that reduced federal funding for abortion increased fertility among young women by 2%. These effects were concentrated among non-white women, who subsequently experienced greater welfare participation in states with larger abortion funding declines. The consequences extend into the next generation: non-white girls born after Hyde were more likely to rely on public assistance in adulthood. Abortion funding restrictions reinforce long-run economic inequality across generations.

Sara Tozzi (University of Bologna), Children by Choice, Not Chance: Family Planning Association and Fertility in Britain (410)

We study the causal impact of Family Planning Association (FPA) clinics in England and Wales, which provided pre-marital sexual advice and expanded substantially between 1950 and 1970. Using newly digitized archival records on the location of FPA clinics merged with district-level vital statistics, we exploit the staggered roll-out of clinic openings and estimate their effects using a heterogeneous-treatment event-study design. We find that the opening of an FPA clinic in a district reduced the crude birth rate by about 2% over the subsequent decade, with no detectable effects on infant, stillbirth, or maternal mortality. Preliminary analyses using individual-level data from the UK Biobank show that FPA openings led to lower teen pregnancies and an earlier initiation of oral contraceptive use. These effects reflect the historical role of the FPA as a trusted intermediary in the diffusion of safe modern contraceptive methods, frequently serving as the sole local provider of reliable female-controlled contraception.

Fertility Choices (V002)

Julius Ilčiukas (The Chinese University of Hong Kong), The Only Child (2)

We are the first to estimate the impact of having siblings on the cognitive and non-cognitive development of first-born children in a developed-country context. By exploiting quasi-experimental variation in the sequence of parents' in vitro fertilization (IVF) attempts for a second child, we identify effects for first-born children who would remain only children if all IVF attempts fail. Using Danish administrative registers linked to nationwide school surveys, we find that siblings have little effect on test performance (math and reading), personality traits (conscientiousness, agreeableness, emotional stability), or classroom and school well-

being. Overall, we conclude that having siblings neither harms nor spurs the first-borns' cognitive and non-cognitive development.

Miko Hallikainen (Tampere University), Wealth Shocks and the Timing of First Births (372)

We study the effect of wealth shocks on timing of first births, and how responses depend on the career costs of early childbearing. We develop a two-period model in which fertility timing trades off short-run childcare costs against persistent earnings penalties, implying that wealth can accelerate childbearing only when borrowing constraints bind and career penalties are not too large. We test these predictions using Finnish population register data and exogenous variation from inheritances received from relatives other than parents or siblings, measured at the household level. Empirically, we implement a stacked difference-in-differences event-study design by age at treatment and education group. As a first step, we document substantial heterogeneity in child penalties by age and education, providing a natural mapping from the data to the model's key parameters and guiding the analysis of inheritance-induced changes in fertility timing.

Giorgia Conte (Trinity College Dublin), Parental Leave Policies and Fertility: The Emotional Cost of Maternal Care (688)

This paper studies how non-monetary maternal care costs influence women's fertility by exploiting a Danish reform that increased parental leave entitlement by an average of 5.3 weeks. Employing an instrumental variable strategy, we estimate heterogeneous effects on subsequent births over a three-year horizon according to the availability and employment status of women's mothers and mothers-in-law. We show that, among women whose own mother is likely available to provide childcare, extended leave significantly raises the probability of having another child in the short and medium term, particularly for first-time mothers. Conversely, for women whose own mothers and mothers-in-law are employed, deceased, or living abroad, and therefore unlikely to provide continuous support during the leave, extended leave duration is associated to a significant decline in the probability of giving birth in the short term, which does not persist in the medium term. We interpret these results as evidence that family support, particularly from the maternal grandmother, mediates the impact of longer leave on fertility by altering the non-monetary (emotional) costs of childcare. Extended leave duration can exacerbate emotional burdens if it prolongs periods of isolation for women recovering from childbirth as sole caregivers, leading to postponement of future births. However, if complemented with family support, it can mitigate such non-monetary cost and encourage higher fertility.

Peers (T003)

Erik Liss (Swedish Institute For Social Research), Estimating Endogenous Gender Peer Effects Using Group Size Variation (273)

Gender peer effects in schools are widely documented, yet the underlying mechanisms remain poorly understood. A central open question is whether observed gender-related peer patterns primarily reflect girls' characteristics shaping the classroom environment (contextual peer effects) or gender-specific social interactions that generate feedback loops through peers' outcomes (endogenous peer effects). In this paper, we estimate peer effects on academic achievement in the final year of compulsory school (grade 9) using Swedish register data. Relative to earlier studies using register data, we make three main contributions. First, we use classroom-level data rather than school-cohort data. Classrooms are more likely to provide an environment conducive to peer effects than the broader school cohorts commonly used in the literature. Second, following Lee (2007) and Boucher et al. (2014), we exploit variation in class size to separate endogenous peer effects from contextual effects. A practical challenge in earlier applications is that identification is typically strongest in class sizes smaller than those found in most real-world settings. We strengthen identification by estimating the model separately by gender, exploiting that many class-rooms are unevenly gender-balanced, thereby increasing effective identifying variation. Using a conditional maximum likelihood estimator, we find sizable endogenous peer effects in mathematics test scores: about 0.45 SD for girls and 0.2 SD for boys. Third, using a simple analytical model, we show that these stronger within-gender endogenous peer effects among girls can rationalize the widely documented finding that increasing the share of girls raises class-level outcomes.

Tabea Braun (University of Zurich), Non-Toxic Peers: Long-Run Returns from an Anti-Bullying Program (293)

We study the long-run impacts of a randomized anti-bullying intervention, the KiVa program, in Finnish schools. We link the RCT survey data for 15,000 pupils attending grades 7-9 to comprehensive administrative records on educational and labor market outcomes in adulthood. Treated students experience gains in human capital attainment and labor market outcomes: they are more likely to enroll in academic high school, obtain a university degree, and earn higher wages by ages 27-29. We find that these gains accrue to all groups of pupils, irrespective of gender or social role in the classroom. Evidence suggests that reductions in bullying, particularly among boys, leading to a more positive learning environment for all groups of pupils are the main driver behind these effects.

Filippo Da Re (University of Padova), Peer Backgrounds Matter: Classmates' Parents and High School Track Choice (241)

This paper studies whether classmates' parental occupations in Italian middle school affect students' high school track choices. Using administrative data, I compare students with the same parental occupation and exploit within-school, within-cohort variation in class assignment to identify peer backgrounds effects. A one standard deviation increase in the share of high prestige classmates raises academic track enrollment by about 2 percentage points, while exposure to low-prestige peers reduces it similarly. I separate peer backgrounds from peer ability in a causal mediation analysis with partially overlapping peer groups. The effects persist conditional on ability, consistent with information, aspirations, and status channels.

Apprenticeships (T004)

Qin Lin (Vienna University of Economics And Business), High Intergenerational Earnings and Low Educational Mobility: The Role of Vocational Apprenticeships (412)

Austria combines exceptionally low educational mobility with remarkably high income mobility—a striking “mobility paradox.” Using population-wide administrative data, we document this paradox and show that it arises from the structure of Austria's vocational and tertiary education system. Large within-track heterogeneity in both vocational (VET) and tertiary returns leads to substantial overlap in their lifetime earnings distributions. The widespread and accessible VET pathway provides clear routes into stable, well-paid occupations, enabling high income mobility even for children from less-educated households. The results imply that the link between education and income mobility is not mechanical, and that expanding tertiary enrollment alone may do little to enhance economic opportunity.

Simona Lorena Comi (University of Milano-Bicocca), The Value of Dual Education: Evidence from the Apprenticeship Reform in Italy (592)

Limited evidence exists regarding the effectiveness of dual education systems. This paper addresses this gap by investigating the impact of Italy's Level I Apprenticeship reform, which integrates apprenticeships into the school curriculum, thereby establishing Italy's first formal apprenticeship scheme with institutional instruction complementing workplace training. Exploiting the staggered regional implementation of the reform, I apply quasi-experimental techniques to estimate the reform's causal effects on labour market outcomes. The findings reveal a significant positive impact on employment probability and earnings, with considerable variation across demographic groups and firm characteristics. Specifically, dual education returns are more substantial for males and young adults. Additionally, the reform has increased transitions to Level II apprenticeships and the probability of having an open-ended contract.

Michael Dörsam (Federal Institute for Vocational Education And Training (BIBB)), Employment Effects of a Statutory Minimum Wage: Evidence from a National Reform of the German Apprenticeship Market (24)

To enhance the attractiveness of vocational education and training and to secure an adequate supply of skilled labor, the German government introduced a statutory minimum apprenticeship wage. Since January 1, 2020, apprentices who start their training have been entitled to a minimum wage that increases annually. Using administrative register data on apprenticeship contracts, we estimate the causal effect of this legislation on apprentice employment. Exploiting regional and occupational variation in the share of apprenticeships paid at the minimum wage, we apply standard difference-in-differences, triple-difference, and synthetic difference-in-differences models. Our results indicate that the minimum apprenticeship wage increased the number of apprenticeship contracts while reducing the contract termination rate in low-wage occupations. We also find considerable heterogeneity across occupations, which may be best explained by differences in exposure to skilled labor shortages and changes in apprentices' educational attainment.

Compulsory Education (U006)

Shicheng Fan (University of Turin & Collegio Carlo Alberto), Does Free Compulsory Education in Rural China Increase Access to Higher Education? (98)

This paper examines the long-term effects of China's 2006–2007 Free Compulsory Education Reform on educational attainment in rural areas. The reform eliminated tuition and textbook fees for nine years of schooling, but its staggered rollout across provinces and cohorts created a quasi-natural experiment in exposure. Using nationally representative survey data, I construct an individual-level measure of reform exposure based on the number of tuition-free semesters. The estimates show that each additional semester of exposure raises the probability of completing high school by about two percentage points and of completing college by nearly one percentage point. The effects appear to operate mainly through reduced adolescent farm work and improved academic performance. These findings suggest that lowering the cost of basic education promotes educational progression beyond the compulsory stage and helps expand the supply of educated labor in rural China.

Maria Sauval (Aalto University), Oma Linja School Intervention: Improving Post-Compulsory Educational Choices (516)

This paper provides an evaluation of Oma Linja, a school intervention that supported students in the final year of compulsory education in making the educational choice that is most suitable for them. About 10,000 9th-grade students in Finland participated in a randomized controlled trial. The treatment included a training in group counseling techniques to school educators, and motivational workshops for students. Using administrative data, we look at the effects on upper secondary school applications, enrollment, and graduation. Our primary results indicate that Oma Linja did not significantly change the likelihood of graduating from

upper secondary education or enrolling in tertiary education. However, it increased graduation from the vocational track by 2 p.p., with a symmetrical decrease in the academic track. These effects were concentrated in students with GPA below 8.5. Additionally, students with an immigrant background were 4.1 percentage points (7%) more likely to graduate from upper secondary school, closing the graduation gap by 25%.

Huali Wu (Shanxi University of Finance And Economics), Unintended Demographic Effects of Educational Affirmative Action in China (61)

Affirmative action aims to support underrepresented groups but can also shape how exogamous parents identify their children. Leveraging affirmative action in higher education jointly with the 1999 higher education expansion in China, this paper examines the unintended demographic consequences of affirmative action. A difference-in-differences analysis shows that the expanded higher education increased the likelihood of minority identification among children of Han fathers and minority mothers by 4.0 percentage points (equivalent to 19,000 minority newborns every year), with no impacts for children of minority fathers and Han mothers. Event studies reveal a pronounced impact for boys, suggesting that identity-concerned parents respond differently to economic incentives for sons and daughters. Within-household and province-level analyses further confirm the impact of ethnic affirmative action on ethnic identity choice.

Assortative Mating (U1)

Jose Garcia-Louzao (Lietuvos Bankas), Assortative Mating Through the Lens of AKM (86)

Using unique linked husband-wife-employer administrative data on all Lithuanian residents, we study the contribution of firms to assortative mating. Through the lens of a standard AKM framework, we decompose the degree of assortative mating in labor earnings into individual and firm components, documenting that where spouses work explains mating almost as much as who they are: the correlations on their worker and firm fixed effects are 0.27 and 0.16, respectively. We find that if matching were random instead of assortative on the firm's components of wages, the variance of daily wages across couples would be 13 percentage points lower, accounting for 10.7 percent of the overall observed inequality.

Margarita Machelett (Banco De España), Assortative Mating, Inequality, and Rising Educational Mobility in Spain (662)

We study the evolution of intergenerational educational mobility and related distributional statistics in Spain. Over recent decades, mobility has risen by one-third, coinciding with pronounced declines in inequality and assortative mating among the same cohorts. To explore these patterns, we examine regional correlates of mobility, using split-sample techniques. A key finding from both national and regional analyses is the close association between mobility and assortative mating: spousal sorting accounts for nearly half of the

regional variation in intergenerational correlations and also appears to be a key mediator of the negative relationship between inequality and mobility documented in recent studies.

Zoe Kuehn (Universidad Autónoma de Madrid - CIF ES Q2818013A), Joint Custody and the Decline in US Migration (661)

Since the 1970s, internal migration in the United States has been declining, while joint custody arrangements – which restrict the mobility of divorced individuals with children – have become increasingly common. We combine individual-level data from the Annual Social and Economic Supplement of the CPS for 1982–2021 with the staggered introduction of joint custody laws across U.S. states to estimate their effect on the mobility of divorced men. Using never-married individuals as a comparison group, we find that joint custody laws have large but sluggish effects on county and state mobility of divorced men; ten years after their introduction mobility is 23% lower. Black, younger, and lower educated men are most affected by joint custody restrictions. We find no measurable effects on the mobility of divorced women. Panel data analysis using PSID data, while not representative at the US state level, confirms that fathers who divorce after the introduction of joint custody laws in their state of residence become significantly less likely to move across state borders.

Schooling Reforms (U3)

Yuzhang Zhang (University of Auckland), Educational Time Compression and Human Capital Investment: Evidence from Germany’s High School Duration Reform (15)

This paper evaluates the long-term effects of Germany’s G8 education reform, which shortened the Gymnasium track from nine to eight years without reducing curriculum content. Using nationally representative data and a staggered difference-in-differences design, we find no evidence that the reform accelerated entry into the labour market. Instead, students reinvested the saved year into higher education: the probability of completing education beyond high school and of attaining at least a bachelor’s degree increased substantially, accompanied by a shift from vocational to academic pathways. No systematic effect is found for master’s attainment. Subgroup analysis shows that the reform mainly benefited male students, who achieved higher educational attainment and stronger progression in academic pathways. Overall, compressed secondary schooling raised educational participation but failed to deliver earlier employment, with implications for both efficiency and equity in education policy.

Marc Bachmeier (Freie Universität Berlin), The Effect of Compressing Schooling on Labor Market Outcomes (391)

Population aging has increased interest in policies that accelerate labor market entry. However, shortening general education may come at the cost of reduced early career outcomes. Germany implemented a reform that preserved total instructional time while shortening the duration of secondary schooling. Exploiting the staggered introduction of this

reform across federal states, we estimate its effects on labor market outcomes at entry and during the early career. We find that the reduction in schooling duration by one year leads to labor market entry only half a year earlier. Moreover, treated graduates experience a wage penalty of around 5% at labor market entry and are 2 percentage points less likely to start their careers in high-skilled occupations. These effects persist also several years after entry into the labor market. Our results suggest that policies aimed at accelerating labor market entry by compressing schooling may entail lasting costs in terms of early career quality, calling into question their effectiveness as a response to demographic aging.

Anna Luisa Maria Daelen (Federal Institute for Population Research (BiB)), *Redefining (Legal) Adulthood: The Effects of Lowering the Age of Majority on Women's Postschool Education and Family Formation* (142)

We identify the impact of agency on women's education and family formation outcomes. The reform we investigate lowered the age of legal adulthood from 21 to 18 in 1975 West Germany. Before the reform, students of the academic school track became legal adults only 1-2 years after obtaining the general university entrance qualification (Abitur). Thus, they needed parental consent to make important life decisions such as enrolling in university after school. After the reform, students became legal adults before obtaining university entrance qualification, and thus had full legal agency to shape the transition from school to higher education. Focusing on women of the academic school track, we define treatment assignment as being a legal adult at the predicted date of finishing school, which we calculate on the basis of birth month and federal state. Our difference-in-differences model exploits variation in school start cutoff dates that vary between federal states. Using administrative data from the German Microcensus, we show that women assigned to treatment are more likely to obtain a university degree and less likely to marry and have children. Reaching the age of majority earlier thus has lasting effects on major life events and the population composition as a whole.

Gender Identity and Sexual Orientation (U4)

Ian Burn (University of Liverpool), *The Evolution of Labor Market Outcomes During Gender-Affirming Care* (77)

Using administrative data from Sweden, this paper examines labor market trajectories following the initiation of gender-affirming care. We track employment, earnings, and economic self-sufficiency for transgender men and women before and after the first diagnosis of gender incongruence, using an event-study design to measure the changes in labor market outcomes relative to a matched cisgender sample. Prior to initiating gender-affirming care, transgender individuals already showed lower employment and earnings, and after treatment begins, the gaps widen significantly. Relative employment declines in the two years after initiating care and remains stable in subsequent years. Relative earnings decline as well, following the same pattern as employment. The decline is larger for transgender women than

for transgender men. The widening of the gaps in labor market outcomes reflects two factors: i) declines in employment and earnings among transgender individuals who were employed when they initiated gender-affirming care, and ii) slow employment and earnings growth among transgender individuals who enter the labor market after initiating gender-affirming care. Obtaining gender-affirming hormones or surgeries and legal gender recognition is not correlated with outcomes for transgender women, but obtaining gender-affirming hormones or surgeries and legal gender recognition is correlated with smaller declines in relative employment and earnings for trans men. Mechanism tests suggest a limited role for occupational sorting and firm characteristics, and health shocks explain only a small fraction of the observed declines in relative outcomes. The results highlight the economic vulnerability transgender individuals face during medical transitions.

Ylva Moberg (Stockholm University), Changing Legal Gender with or Without Mandated Sterilization: Impacts on Transgender Health and Earnings (144)

Until 2013, Sweden required trans people to undergo surgical sterilization before changing the gender marker on their legal documents. Using population-wide medical and tax records from 2006 to 2020, we find that removing this requirement led to an immediate, three-fold increase in gender marker changes, driven by young adults with weak labor market attachment. Among those who changed their gender marker, approximately 32.6% of trans women and 55.2% of trans men opted out of sterilization once it was no longer mandatory. To assess whether the policy change influenced people's socioeconomic circumstances during their gender transition, we use an event study framework and compare two groups: trans people who changed their gender marker when sterilization was mandated (pre-2013) and those who did so afterwards (post-2013). Our approach analyzes the differences between each group's health and labor market outcomes from four years before to four years after their gender marker change. As a benchmark, we also compare the observed trajectories to those of an age-matched sample of cisgender people. We find that trans people who changed their gender marker without mandated sterilization had reduced sick leave, fewer hospitalization days, and faster growth in earnings and employment rates compared to those who did so under the prior mandate. Despite these gains, trans people still face substantially poorer labor market and health outcomes than similarly aged cisgender people.

Erik Plug (Amsterdam School of Economics, University of Amsterdam), The Relationship Between Earnings and Sexual Orientation: First Evidence from China (35)

We document, for the very first time, the relationship between earnings and sexual orientation in China. Using data from the 2020 Chinese Private Life Survey, we find that gay men earn significantly less than comparable heterosexual men, with the largest penalties for rural-hukou holders and among men reporting exclusive same-sex attraction. Lesbian women tend to earn more than heterosexual women, but the differences are small and mostly insignificant. The estimates for bisexual men and women are uniformly insignificant. We conclude that the gay penalties and lesbian premiums in China, albeit imprecisely estimated,

mirror those observed in Western labor markets and are most consistent with explanations based on conventional gender norms and intra-household specialization.

Grandparenthood (U5)

Shoumeli Das (University of Liverpool), *The Gendered Juggle of Grandparenthood: Labour Market Differences Within Couples* (13)

With ageing populations and longer careers, grandparenthood emerges as a common but gendered life event that reshapes labour supply within households. In this paper, I estimate the differences in labour market outcomes within grandparent couples using an event study approach centred around the birth of the first grandchild. I find strong evidence of a 'grandchild penalty' within couples that is borne disproportionately by women, relative to their husbands. Grandmothers experience a 3pp (9.3%) decline in labour force participation within a year of the first grandchild's birth, rising to 7pp (21.7%) after seven years. This translates to a \$4011 annual income loss for women in the first year. Back-of-the-envelope calculations show that for every annual cohort of new grandmothers in the US, about 54,000 women drop out of the workforce, resulting in an aggregate earnings loss upwards of \$907 million. The effects are stronger for women in couples where both spouses have white-collar jobs or are both college-educated. I also show that both maternal grandparents are more directly involved in caregiving, while paternal grandmothers face sharper participation penalties, and that living at a distance from grandchildren increases women's likelihood of labour force exit. The findings reflect deeply entrenched gender norms at the household level that channel caregiving responsibilities primarily onto women, even in later life. Key policy implications include the need for flexible work arrangements for middle-aged and older women, and adopting a life-course approach to address gender inequalities in the labour market.

Roberto Gillmore (Central Bank of Chile), *Care Across Generations: How Grandparenthood Affects Labor Supply in a Middle-Income Country* (23)

This paper examines the labor market effects of grandparenthood in Chile, a middle-income country with limited formal childcare provision and low female labor force participation. Using administrative data and a matched event-study design, we find that grandmothers experience persistent declines in labor supply, with annual income falling by 30% and formal participation decreasing by 4% ten years after the birth of their first grandchild. Maternal grandmothers face larger penalties than paternal ones, highlighting the gendered and directional nature of caregiving. We also find statistically significant, though smaller, reductions in income and labor supply among grandfathers, suggesting that caregiving burdens can extend to men in settings with strong reliance on family-based care. Furthermore, we show that Chile's 2011 extension of paid maternity leave amplified the negative income effects for grandmothers, pointing to unintended spillovers of parental leave policy on older caregivers.

Tapio Räsänen (Kela, The Social Insurance Institution of Finland), Sick of Your Grandchildren? Examining Health Spillovers in Aging Populations (649)

This study investigates the health impacts of becoming a grandparent using Finnish administrative register data and a quasi-experimental design based on the timing of first grandchild births. We examine changes in the use of psychiatric and antibiotic medications as proxies for mental distress and exposure to infections. While psychotropic medication use modestly declines, especially among women, we find more pronounced and robust increases in antibiotic purchases 1–4 years after the first grandchild's birth. These effects are strongest among grandmothers and those living near their grandchildren, and they exhibit clear seasonality consistent with respiratory infection patterns. The health impacts appear to be amplified when grandchildren reach daycare age, suggesting that grandparents are indirectly exposed to infections through caregiving contact. Leveraging the COVID-19 pandemic as a natural experiment, we find a temporary decline in antibiotic use among grandparents in cohorts exposed to pandemic-related social distancing, consistent with reduced intergenerational contact. These findings highlight that grandparenthood does not come without costs: while it may offer psychological benefits, it can also impose infection-related health burdens, particularly in settings where grandparents provide informal childcare. Our study contributes to literatures on intergenerational health spillovers, gendered caregiving burdens, and pandemic-induced behavioral change. Even in a Nordic welfare state with extensive public childcare, informal caregiving can carry health risks for aging populations—risks that are likely larger in more family-centric societies.

Marriage and Household Allocations (U6)

Wietse Leleu (KU Leuven), Household Allocations and the Marriage Market: A Structural Analysis (276)

This paper integrates the notion of consideration sets in the revealed preference framework of Cherchye, Demuynck, De Rock, and Vermeulen (2017). Using a revealed preference methodology based on the assumption of marriage stability within the collective household model, this framework can identify the intrahousehold decision structure, such as the sharing rule. Based on this methodology, a comparative study is conducted across various marriage market specifications, ranging from two polar cases - the "conservative" approach (where only one's current partner is considered) and the "full-market" approach (where everyone considers everyone) - to six intermediate cases. The latter include the Cherchye et al. (2017) approach, where potential partners are considered based solely on age, as well as specifications based on five additional categories (BMI, wage, education, children, and religiosity). These categories are selected based on the assortative mating literature. The specifications are evaluated based on the level of stability, as well as the bounds and tightness of the sharing rule.

Laurine Meier (Ecole Polytechnique-crest), Polygamy as a Ponzi Scheme: How Population Growth Shapes Marriage Markets in Africa (330)

In Sub-Saharan Africa, polygamy is very prevalent: 10 to 50 % of married women are in a polygamous union depending on the country. Yet, historically, the fraction of men who never marry has always been low. This is because a fast population growth combined with a large age gap between husbands and wives created a surplus of women on the marriage market. However, this surplus is projected to shrink as population growth has started to slow down. The demographic conditions necessary to sustain high levels of polygamy while ensuring that all men eventually marry are therefore less likely to hold in the future. What will be the effect on the marriage market? Will polygamy disappear or will male celibacy explode? We develop a structural model to study under which conditions we should observe a decrease in the share of polygamous men and/or an increase in the share of single men when population growth declines. We provide an empirical application using original data from Senegal.

Marco Francesconi (University of Essex), Gender Role Attitudes and Marital Sorting: Implications for Household Inequality (220)

We study the role of Gender Role Attitudes (GRA)—beliefs about appropriate roles for men and women—in marital sorting and intra-household allocations. Using the UK Household Longitudinal Study and a multidimensional matching model following Dupuy and Galichon (2014), we estimate the contribution of GRA to the joint marriage utility alongside age, education, BMI, height, health, personality traits, and risk preferences. We find that sorting on GRA is quantitatively important: its contribution to the joint utility is comparable in magnitude to that of education. We apply a decomposition that identifies three dominant indices underlying joint utility, with GRA loading heavily on one of them jointly with age and education. This GRA-related index strongly predicts subsequent allocations within marriage, including spouses' shares of housework, childcare, earnings, and paid labor. These findings indicate that gender role attitudes are a central dimension of assortative matching and play a meaningful role in shaping intra-household behaviour and gendered labor market outcomes.

Parallel Sessions H (14:30–16:00)

Evaluation of Social Benefit Policies (V001)

Inès Touré (University of Poitiers), What Works for the Urban Poor? Cash Assistance and Livelihood Programs in Madagascar (703)

Policymakers increasingly rely on cash-based social protection to address urban poverty in low-and middle-income countries. While cash is effective at improving short-run welfare, evidence remains limited on whether cash alone can promote sustained economic inclusion in dense and competitive urban labor markets. We conduct a mixed-methods evaluation of Madagascar's Urban Social Safety Nets program, which provides bi-monthly cash assistance to poor urban households and layers a livelihood package—including training, savings

facilitation, and a productive grant—for a randomly selected subset of beneficiaries. The quantitative component exploits a cluster randomized controlled trial complemented by propensity score matching using household survey data collected up to 20 months after the first transfer. Cash assistance increases engagement in income-generating activities and savings accumulation, improving households' capacity to smooth shocks. The multifaceted package further accelerates business creation and investment but does not generate measurable gains in consumption, profits, or productive asset accumulation within the study horizon. Qualitative evidence shows that beneficiaries systematically invest transfers in small enterprises, housing improvements, and private schooling, while facing persistent constraints to scaling returns in crowded urban markets.

Arizo Karimi (Department of Economics, Uppsala University), Effectiveness of European Social Funds-Financed Workplace Training Programs: Evidence from Sweden (397)

This paper studies the individual-level labor market effects of European Social Fund (ESF)-financed human capital development for incumbent workers in Sweden during the 2014–2020 programming period. Using linked program participation-and population-wide administrative registers (both at the individual level), we estimate the impacts on earned income and labor market attachment in a setting where program participation is workplace-based, highly selective, and typically of short duration. To address non-random selection into training, we combine risk-set propensity score matching with cohort-stacked event-study difference-in-differences under staggered entry. To account for mechanically induced treatment-year movements—driven by workplace presence and regression-to-the-mean patterns—we complement baseline estimates with a triple-differences strategy that exploits variation in reported training intensity, using very low exposure as an internal placebo. Our results suggest positive post-intervention effects on annual earned income and on the probability of having any earned income. While small in absolute terms, these effects are economically meaningful given participants' high baseline attachment and strong pre-treatment labor market position.

Charl Frye (University of Sheffield), Coping at the Margin: Household Finance Under the Two-Child Benefit Cap (647)

This paper investigates the effect of the two-child benefit cap on household financial fragility. Drawing on longitudinal data from Understanding Society, the analysis employs a difference-in-differences (DiD) framework and an event-study design that compares households who had a third (or subsequent) child after the policy's introduction to those who reached three-child parity beforehand. The empirical strategy focuses on plausibly exogenous variation in exposure generated by the timing of childbirth relative to policy introduction. Financial fragility is assessed across multiple dimensions: material deprivation, arrears on essential bills, and subjective financial strain. Results indicate that exposure to the TCBC is associated with a gradual increase in subjective financial strain and a higher likelihood of arrears on non-housing bills, with effects emerging over time. These findings point to unintended

distributional consequences of the reform, particularly for low-income families with larger households.

Behavioral Economics (V002)

Luigi Maria Briglia (University of Tübingen), The Role of Expenditure Risk in Household Wealth Dynamics (607)

A substantial fraction of U.S. households experience wealth decline, often transitioning into hand-to-mouth (H2M) status despite no clear income shocks. Standard models attribute these transitions to transitory income fluctuations, yet expenditure risk (ER)—persistent, unpredictable spending shocks—explains a larger share of downward wealth transitions. Using PSID data (1999–2021) and a flexible expenditure model, ER is identified as the primary driver of H2M transitions, surpassing transitory income risk. A heterogeneous-agent model incorporating ER successfully replicates these patterns, highlighting the role of expenditure shocks in shaping household wealth dynamics beyond standard income risk mechanisms.

Miri Stryjan (Aalto University), The Anatomy of Collective Decision Making -- Voice and Choice in a Public Goods Game in Malawi (639)

We test whether agenda-setting power can be manipulated by randomizing the speaking order during a collective decision about group investments in 71 farmer groups in Malawi. The decision making process was followed by a public goods game in which individuals could choose contributions towards the decided investment category. Farmers randomly assigned an early speaking turn in the investment suggestion stage are more likely to provide suggestions rather than stay silent, and to provide new suggestions rather than echoing those of previous speakers. Moreover, farmers in marginalized groups (e.g. poorer members) are equally likely as others to use an assigned early speaking turn to voice an opinion. As farmers in marginalized groups have different preferences than others, these findings mean that offering such farmers an early speaking turn enables new suggestions to be heard. The characteristics of the first speaker are also correlated with the final investment choice of the group. In the public good game, although members' monetary contributions do not vary with their speaking order or with the distance between their own suggestion and the group's final investment choice, contributions are lower when a poor farmer started the discussion. Our results are consistent with a model in which early speakers influence the direction of herding behavior and thereby decisions, but with no mechanisms in place for coordination, manipulating agenda setting power can lead to worse equilibria. Beyond the studied context they may inform decision making processes in other group-based service delivery settings, such as microfinance, and local assemblies.

Greta Morando (University of Sheffield), Empowering Parents in the Digital Age (33)

While economic research documents substantial negative effects of social media on youth outcomes, the role of parents in mediating these effects remains largely unexplored. We propose digital parenting as a new form of human capital investment and test whether interventions can shift parents' beliefs and practices, as well as children's outcomes. Drawing on a UK household longitudinal survey, Understanding Society, we first document that intensive social media use is associated with greater behavioural problems among children, and that parenting styles predict children's digital exposure. We then conduct our own longitudinal survey on 1,800 UK parents, and implement two randomized interventions: (i) an information treatment providing evidence on the risks of social media, and (ii) a four-week video training on digital parenting strategies. The information treatment increased support for school no-phone policies by 47% relative to the control group mean and actual participation in follow-up training by 37%, though it also raised parental anxiety by 20%. The video training generates suggestive evidence of improvements in parenting practices, particularly communication strategies. Effects on children's outcomes are modest but suggest reductions in screen time. Treatment effects vary substantially by parenting style: permissive parents respond most strongly to both interventions. These findings suggest that while providing information can effectively shift beliefs and, to some extent, practices, it involves welfare trade-offs.

Intergenerational Transmissions (T003)

Toni Juuti (Labore), Head Start for Entrepreneurship: The Role of Socio-Economic Background (117)

I explore the origins of the positive association between socio-economic background and entrepreneurship. Using Finnish administrative data, I show that children from the top 1% of the parental income distribution are more than five times as likely to become business owners and almost three times as likely to become "real entrepreneurs" as those from the bottom 50%. Similar patterns appear when using parental wealth instead of income, though the effects are somewhat smaller in magnitude. The strongest channel behind the over-representation of entrepreneurs from high-income families is prior experience of business ownership before founding new firms. I rationalize this finding by developing an "ownership ladder" model, where entrepreneurship is the second step on the ladder, and parental resources are associated with people stepping onto that ladder early. Furthermore, there are distinctive differences in the industries of the new firms by entrepreneurs' parental background, which suggests that coming from prosperous origins is positively associated with human capital that provides entrepreneurial opportunities. The socio-economic background of entrepreneurs appears only weakly related to the initial equity of new firms, suggesting that liquidity constraints are not especially important. Nor can the selection pattern be explained by income shifting or shell companies. I also explore the dynamic implications in the context of firm performance, personal income development, and intergenerational income mobility.

Eduard Suari-Andreu (Leiden University), Of Love and Other Motives: The Within Family Distribution of Gifts and Inheritances (668)

We study the motives behind parental wealth transfers in the form gifts and inheritances using administrative data on the full Dutch population (2007-2021). Combining tax records with detailed family characteristics, we analyse the within-family allocation of wealth and test for exchange, altruistic, and warm-glow motives. We find no evidence that transfers compensate informal care, with some associations but no consistent patterns. Gifts, however, clearly reflect altruistic motives, as parents direct resources to less advantaged children. Inheritances are shared almost equally among siblings, suggesting strong social norms consistent with warm-glow giving.

Enkelejda Havari (Iseeg School of Management), Born Here, Raised There: Regional Mobility and Intergenerational Transmission of Education in Europe (50)

The effects of regional mobility during childhood on educational attainment and its transmission across generations remain understudied in Europe. Using micro-level data on three linked generations from the Survey of Health, Ageing and Retirement in Europe (SHARE), we track moves across European regions linked to historical GDP per capita at the regional level. For the parents' generation (G2), born between 1920–1950, moving to a better region before age 18 is associated with gains of up to 0.85 years of schooling. Conversely, for the children's generation (G3), born between 1960–1980, it is associated with a reduction of roughly 0.6 years of education, except when parents have tertiary education, in which case moving becomes beneficial. To achieve causality, we also adopt a sibling comparison strategy exploiting variation in the age of move and length of exposure which nets out all unobserved parental characteristics. We find that an additional year in a better region raises educational attainment by about 0.03 years. Overall we find evidence of a generational reversal indicating growing stratification by family background.

Paternity Leave (T004)

Luis Guirola Abenza (University of Barcelona), Paternity Leave and Statistical Discrimination: Evidence from Spanish Firms (71)

Gender gaps in labor market outcomes persist partly due to statistical discrimination regarding childcare costs. This paper investigates whether the progressive extension of paternity leave in Spain (2019–2021)—which equalized entitlements for parents—reduced such discrimination. Exploiting the stepwise implementation via a regression discontinuity design, we find that firms exposed to a father on extended leave significantly increase their share of female employees under 45 and reduce the within-firm gender earnings gap. Decomposing these effects, we identify a “labor hoarding” mechanism: the adjustment is driven by higher retention of young women rather than increased hiring. Furthermore, the observed wage convergence is compositional, stemming from the preservation of female talent rather than wage growth for stayers. These findings suggest that longer, non-

transferable paternity leave effectively reduces statistical discrimination by updating employer beliefs about the relative stability of female employees.

Irene Marta Brusini (NHH), How Fathers Take Leave: Gender Norms or Economic Incentives? (400)

Many countries have introduced paternity leave policies to promote gender equality in caregiving and labor market outcomes. Yet fathers' participation in parental leave remains limited not only in duration but also in substance, with fathers rarely acting as primary caregivers. This paper provides new evidence on two forces shaping paternal leave behavior: gender norms and economic incentives. Using Norwegian administrative data, I first show that understanding paternal leave behavior requires moving beyond total leave duration to consider how leave is taken. Fathers disproportionately concentrate leave in periods associated with lower career disruption, such as summer months and holidays, revealing a systematic tendency toward strategic leave use. I then examine the role of gender norms by exploiting within-school across-cohort variation in exposure to high-school peers with working mothers. I find that women exposed to more employed high-school peers' mothers work more, earn more, have fewer children, and delay childbearing. Moreover, their partners are more likely to comply with paternity leave quotas and less likely to take leave during strategic times. In contrast, men's own outcomes respond little to early-life exposure. Finally, I investigate the role of economic incentives by exploiting the income replacement cap on parental leave benefits. I find evidence of a sharp change in paternal leave behavior around the cutoff, consistent with fathers reducing childcare involvement when the effective replacement rate declines.

Herdis Steingrimsdottir (Copenhagen Business School), Expanding Paternity Leave: Effects on Beliefs, Norms, and Gender Gaps (670)

We study whether policy can shift gendered beliefs, norms, and labor market outcomes by exploiting a major expansion of earmarked paternity leave in Denmark. The reform generated large first-stage effects, substantially reallocating leave from mothers to fathers. Using a regression discontinuity design combined with new survey data linked to administrative records, we show that the reform makes parents more supportive of paternity leave, shifts gender-role beliefs in a more progressive direction, and reduces perceived differences in childcare ability. The reform narrows gender gaps in earnings and hours—by 33% and 32% in the first year, and by 3.7% and 2.4% in the second year. These results demonstrate that policy can meaningfully influence beliefs, norms, and gender inequality. On the other hand, earmarking restricts families' ability to allocate leave freely and lowers leave satisfaction, highlighting a central trade-off inherent in paternalistic policies.

Public Policy and the Labor Market (U006)

Yiwei Yin (University of Mannheim), Unemployment Insurance and Family Labor Supply (266)

While previous work documents the added worker effect within couples—where wives increase labor supply when husbands become unemployed—this paper studies the added worker effect within broader family networks, particularly focusing on parents and children, using involuntary job displacement from mass layoffs for an event study. In addition, the paper investigates the role of unemployment insurance (UI) generosity in shaping family labor supply responses. The net effect of UI generosity on family labor supply is theoretically ambiguous: direct income support from UI may reduce the need for family assistance, but longer unemployment spells induced by generous UI could increase reliance on family networks. Using comprehensive administrative data from the Netherlands, I exploit sharp discontinuities in maximum UI entitlement duration at employment history thresholds as a source of exogenous variation. A regression discontinuity design identifies spillover effects of UI generosity on family members' labor market outcomes: Longer UI entitlement substantially increases benefit duration, and delays exits from unemployment for the UI recipients. In response, their spouses increase both employment and labor income while reducing take-up of other social benefits, their parents raise employment and labor income, and adult children increase employment but not labor income.

Eliana Coschignano (RWI-Essen), Introducing Flexicurity: Labor Market Effects of an Unemployment Insurance Reform and Severance Pay (435)

In July 2017, Lithuania moved toward flexicurity by significantly increasing the generosity of unemployment insurance (UI) while simultaneously decreasing firing costs. We use administrative data of the universe of Lithuanian workers to quantify labor market effects of i) the reform, which increased the potential benefit duration and the monthly benefit level by 50 percent, and ii) variation in severance pay. Our estimates imply that the elasticity of the non-employment duration w.r.t. a proportional increase in both policy parameters is between 0.4 and 0.6, and the elasticity of the benefit duration is between 0.7 and 0.8, suggesting a substantial fiscal cost. On the other hand, receiving severance pay increases the probability of survival in non-employment in the first months of unemployment by 5 percentage points. This suggests that liquidity constraints play a relevant role for the unemployed, and additional UI provides valuable insurance. Finally, we find very limited evidence for an effect of the reform on re-employment wages.

Matias Giacobasso (Vatt Institute For Economic Research), Parental Job Loss and the Role of Public Policies (574)

Job displacement generates large and persistent income losses. This paper examines how different public policy designs mitigate the consequences of job loss in Uruguay, a middle income country with a relatively well developed social safety net. Using matched employer-employee records, we combine difference in differences and regression discontinuity designs

to estimate both the effects of job displacement and the insurance value of two policies: (i) a traditional contributory unemployment insurance program (UI) and (ii) a non-contributory conditional cash transfer program that is widely available to households in the lower half of the income distribution (AFAM PE). In the first part of the analysis, we document sharp earnings declines following displacement, with income losses of about 50 percent in the short run and incomplete recovery even five years later. While employment gradually rebounds, persistent income losses are driven primarily by lower post displacement wages. We then compare the insurance value of alternative policy responses to job loss. We show that access to the non contributory cash transfer program provides an effective alternative to UI for vulnerable and middle income workers facing layoffs. In particular, access to the cash transfer is associated with faster earnings recovery and improved medium run labor market outcomes. These results have important implications for policy design. They suggest that cash transfer programs can provide substantial insurance against income losses, especially for lower income workers with more unstable labor market trajectories and for whom job displacement is particularly costly.

Health, Wealth, and Aging (U1)

Richard Foltyn (Norwegian School of Economics), Health Dynamics, Life Expectancy Heterogeneity, and the Racial Gap in Social Security Wealth (373)

Using biennial data from the Health and Retirement Study, we estimate age-dependent health dynamics and survival probabilities at annual frequency conditional on race, sex, self-reported health and other covariates. The estimates can be used to calculate heterogeneous life expectancies in the population. We show that the racial life expectancy gap remains large, even conditional on health, socioeconomic and marital status. Due to racial differences in health dynamics and mortality, married black men on average can expect to receive \$6,900 (or 9.5%) less in Social Security benefits in present value terms. Using a rich life cycle model, we estimate that this corresponds to a welfare loss of about 4%. Black married women's welfare loss is primarily driven not by their own shorter life expectancy but the shorter life expectancy of their husbands.

Meizhu Chen (Aarhus University), The Intergenerational Effects of Debt Relief (403)

Using the full population of Danish debt-relief applicants from 1984 onward, we study how parental debt relief affects the outcomes of their children. To identify causal effects, we exploit quasi-random assignment of cases to trustees, which generates exogenous variation in the likelihood that an applicant receives debt relief. We find that parental debt relief shifts children's educational trajectories toward vocational programs and increases their adult earnings (ages 20–45) by 15% and disposable income by 10% for children of complier parents. Age-specific analyses show that the earnings gains are mainly concentrated in early adulthood and largely dissipate after their early thirties.

Wilbert van der Klaauw (Federal Reserve Bank of New York), Cognitive Health, Household Financial Decision-Making & Intra-household Financial Spillovers (167)

We study the spillover effects of cognitive decline in one member of a coupled household on the financial outcomes of their partner and assess how “own” and spillover effects are moderated by the structure of household financial decision-making. We use a large, nationally representative longitudinal dataset spanning 2000-2017 that includes credit report data merged at the individual level with Medicare claims and enrollment data. We find the own adverse financial consequences of cognitive decline depend on household financial integration and other characteristics associated with household financial management, and find significant, albeit smaller (vs own), adverse financial spillover effects on partners.

Preschool, Childcare, and Child Development (U3)

Ekin Yurdakul (Utrecht University), Preschool Hours and Child Development (401)

We examine the causal impact of an increase in preschool hours on child development by exploiting a reform in the Netherlands. The reform expanded preschool hours for disadvantaged children aged 2.5–4. Leveraging variation across municipalities in the timing and intensity of the reform's implementation, we estimate the effects of the entitlement to additional preschool hours on children's language skills, executive functions, social-emotional development, and fine motor skills. The results show that the entitlement to more preschool hours substantially increases the actual use of preschool hours. Moreover, among children from disadvantaged backgrounds, additional preschool hours significantly improved language development, executive functioning, social-emotional behavior and fine motor skills. No significant effects were found for non-disadvantaged children. These findings suggest that extending preschool hours can significantly enhance development outcomes for children who need it most and thereby generate more equal educational opportunities.

Gabriel Facchini (Royal Holloway), Childcare Before Age Three and Long-Term Academic Achievement: Evidence from a Lottery in Barcelona (648)

We examine the long-term effects of early childcare using administrative data from Barcelona. In oversubscribed public childcare centers, seats are allocated by lottery among applicants with identical priority scores, generating random variation in access. We exploit this design to estimate the causal effect of admission to childcare before age three on standardized test scores measured at age 12. We find that admission reduces scores by 0.08 standard deviations. Since not all admitted children enroll, this is an intention-to-treat estimate. These negative impacts vary by subject and age at entry: language penalties are largest for children admitted at the youngest age, while mathematics effects emerge at older ages. Effects are negative for both high- and low-education families, and in areas with both high and low private childcare availability. The fact that effects persist even in areas where the counterfactual is predominantly home-based parental care rather than private centers

suggests that, for marginal applicants, early childcare displaced developmentally richer home environments without providing equivalent stimulation.

Nina Drange (Frisch Centre), Expanding Early Child Care in Norway: Effects on Cognitive Skills in Adolescence (695)

This paper investigates the long-term impact of early child care enrollment on academic achievement in Norway. Leveraging a 2003 policy expansion that created quasi-random variation in slot availability for children aged 1–2, we employ an instrumental variable (IV) approach to estimate the effects of enrollment age on standardized test scores in primary and lower secondary school. We find that early start has a positive effect on math achievements in grades 8 and 9. The estimates suggest that starting child care one year earlier increases math scores by approximately 9 percent of a standard deviation, with substantial heterogeneity by maternal education. For children whose mothers do not hold a high school diploma, early enrollment in child care generates large and statistically significant gains in math performance across all grades. The magnitude of these effects suggests that starting child care one year earlier reduces the math achievement gap between children of low- and higher-educated mothers by roughly one third.

Family Ties and Labour Market Outcomes (U4)

Shulei Huang (University of Auckland), Overeducation and Parenthood: Do Unions Provide Protection? (147)

Although substantial literature documents the motherhood wage penalty, far less attention has been paid to other labour market disadvantages associated with motherhood. This paper examines whether having children increases the likelihood of overeducation, defined as employment in a job requiring less education than one possesses, and investigates the role of union membership in this context. Using longitudinal data from the Household, Income and Labour Dynamics in Australia Survey, the study employs event study analysis and instrumental variable (IV) estimation. The results reveal a significant education-occupation mismatch penalty for mothers of children under 15, but not for fathers. Importantly, union membership exerts a strong protective effect, significantly reducing the incidence of overeducation among mothers of young children. This protective effect becomes even stronger when IV estimation is used to account for the endogeneity of union choice. These findings provide new evidence on why mothers are more likely than fathers to work in jobs that underutilise their education and broaden the dimensions of the motherhood penalty. Nevertheless, the influence of unions appears pivotal in promoting better job matching and securing more suitable employment for mothers.

Stav Federman (Ben-Gurion University of the Negev), The Aging Parent Penalty Across Countries (224)

Population aging increases the caregiving and financial needs of aging parents, potentially affecting adult children's labor market outcomes. Using SHARE data and a quasi-experimental event-study design, we show that parental health shocks reduce daughters' employment while leaving sons' employment unchanged, widening the gender employment gap. This effect varies across countries: in Italy and Spain, where informal elder-care dominates, daughters reduce employment; in Germany and Switzerland, with mostly private elder-care, sons increase employment; and in Sweden and Denmark, with mainly public elder-care, employment is unaffected. Effects are driven by mixed-sex-sibling families, highlighting the role of gender norms in allocating caregiving and breadwinning responsibilities.

Stefania Albanesi (University of Miami), Boomerang College Kids: Unemployment, Job Mismatch and Coresidence (716)

Labor market outcomes for young college graduates have deteriorated over the past twenty-five years: unemployment gaps have doubled, job mismatch rates have risen from 44% to 49%, and coresidence with parents has increased from 20% to 25%. We argue that the declining availability of jobs requiring a college degree is the key driver. Using a structurally estimated model of child-parent decisions, we show that coresidence enables graduates to wait for better job matches, eliminating the 20% earnings penalty associated with early-career mismatch. Counterfactual analysis reveals that lower matched job arrival rates explain two-thirds of the rise in unemployment and coresidence between the 1996 and 2013 graduation cohorts, while higher student loan balances---despite doubling---have only modest effects. Our findings suggest that debt relief alone would do little to improve labor market outcomes; the fundamental constraint is the scarcity of college-level jobs, and access to family support during job search has important distributional consequences.

School Entry-Age and Rank (U5)

Jaroslav Groero (CERGE-EI), Beyond Test Scores: The Effect of School Entry Age on Specific Cognitive Processes (411)

This paper examines how school starting age affects the development of specific cognitive skills that underpin human capital formation. We link school entry timing to narrow cognitive abilities using high-resolution psychometric data on children from the 4th and 5th grade of the elementary school. We exploit a cutoff rule policy that assigns school eligibility based on month of birth and estimate the intention-to-treat (ITT) effect of starting school later on specific cognitive skills several years later (around the age of 10-11) using regression discontinuity design. Combining the results from two models with different sets of fixed effects allow us to gain interpretive leverage on underlying mechanisms. Our findings indicate that delayed school entry enhances inductive reasoning, with this effect largely attributable to

children's biological maturity—both at the time of school entry and during testing. Learning effectiveness is also enhanced by biological maturity, in particular at school entry. In contrast, quantitative thinking appears to be more strongly influenced by duration of formal school exposure, thereby benefiting children who begin school earlier, among those of the same age. These findings provide new evidence on the specific cognitive channels through which early schooling decisions affect long-run skill development.

Søren Albeck Nielsen (), *Unlocking Potential: The Impact of Dyslexia Diagnosis and Support on Educational Outcomes and Well-Being* (440)

This paper studies the causal effects of diagnosing dyslexia and providing targeted educational support during compulsory schooling on students' academic performance, educational trajectories, and well-being. Dyslexia affects around 7 percent of the population, yet causal evidence on the consequences of formal diagnosis remains limited, particularly for students close to diagnostic thresholds. Using rich Danish administrative and test data, we exploit institutional diagnostic cutoffs in a regression discontinuity design to identify the effects of diagnosis for students at the margin of eligibility. We find large and persistent academic gains following diagnosis. In the short and medium run, diagnosed students show pronounced improvements in core areas of difficulty, particularly reading and spelling, and these gains persist over time. Importantly, academic improvements translate into meaningful long-run outcomes: diagnosed students are significantly more likely to complete upper secondary education and substantially less likely to be not in employment, education, or training (NEET) at age 20. We further document dynamic complementarities between diagnosis and support. Students diagnosed earlier in compulsory schooling experience systematically larger and more persistent gains in both academic outcomes and subsequent educational attainment, indicating that early identification enhances the effectiveness of targeted support. Beyond academic and educational outcomes, diagnosis is associated with a short-run decline in well-being, consistent with temporary adjustment or labeling effects. These negative effects are transitory and dissipate within two years. At the same time, we find sustained improvements in academic self-perception, suggesting that diagnosis helps students better understand and manage their learning difficulties.

Emilia Del Bono (University of Essex), *Beyond Test Scores: How Academic Rank Shapes Long-Term Outcomes* (165)

We study the effects of academic rank using data on the entire population of children enrolled in Aberdeen's (Scotland) primary schools in 1962. Exploiting quasi-random variation in peer group composition, we estimate the causal impact of rank on academic performance, non-cognitive development, parental investment, and long-term outcomes. A higher rank improves achievement on the high-stakes 11-plus exam and enhances internalizing skills—traits linked to self-concept and confidence—suggesting that rank effects operate primarily through students' self-perception. Using a follow-up survey conducted 40 years later, we find that rank raises educational attainment, particularly for girls, but long-term income gains

emerge only among boys. The gender gap in long-run effects likely reflects historical constraints on women's access to higher education and skilled employment during this period.

Fertility, Human Capital, and Norms (U6)

Anning Xie (University of Mannheim), The Dynamics of Fertility, Bargaining, and Human Capital Accumulation (114)

This paper investigates the interaction among fertility, female labor supply, and women's bargaining positions within the household. First, using the China Family Panel Studies (2010-2020) and examining China's 2016 Two-Child Policy, which exogenously expanded couples' fertility options, we find that the policy increases the number of children by 0.30 and raises household divorce rates by 2%. Fertility responses are heterogeneous: women with stronger bargaining positions, measured by higher hourly wages or a larger income share relative to their husbands', exhibit smaller fertility increases and significantly higher divorce rates after the reform. Furthermore, divorce rates are highest in households in which only the husband desires an additional child. To quantify the role of bargaining frictions, we develop a quantitative life-cycle model with endogenous marriage, divorce, fertility, and female labor supply under limited commitment. In the long run, a permanent relaxation of fertility restrictions induces compositional shifts along the marriage margin: women with lower fertility preferences delay marriage and childbirth to accumulate bargaining power. Finally, we use the model to evaluate fertility-promoting policies. Policies that explicitly strengthen women's outside options, such as childcare transfers targeted at divorced mothers, substantially mitigate bargaining concerns and generate large fertility responses among married couples. These results highlight the importance of directly addressing household bargaining frictions when designing effective fertility policies.

Yusuke Ishihata (Duke University), Fertility, Marriage Market Equilibrium, and Education Choice (709)

We develop a unified framework integrating endogenous education choice and marriage market equilibrium into a model of labor supply and fertility decisions to analyze the drivers behind the current fertility decline and its heterogeneous patterns across education groups. Using longitudinal Danish register data, we first document that fertility decline stems from both reduced partnership formation and lower fertility among couples, with the former playing a larger role. Strikingly, among less-educated women, partnership rates decline while fertility rates conditional on being partnered increase --- a puzzle that cannot be explained by any single factor, as higher fertility within marriage typically increases the gains from marriage. To explain this pattern, we estimate the structural model with imperfectly transferable utility (ITU) and equilibrium marriage matching, thereby capturing not only traditional factors (e.g., wages, career-family conflict, family policies) but also novel mechanisms: gender-specific heterogeneity in fertility preferences and the dependence of fertility decisions on bargaining

power. We estimate the model separately across cohorts to quantify how changes in these channels contribute to fertility decline over time. Our decomposition shows that marriage-market mechanisms play a central role in shaping fertility outcomes, while labor-market forces have limited effects on aggregate fertility once general-equilibrium responses are taken into account. By contrast, eliminating tertiary education costs increases aggregate fertility by reshaping the education distribution and equilibrium marriage matching. These results highlight the importance of accounting for endogenous education choices and marriage-market sorting when evaluating the fertility effects of labor-market and education policies.

Tsz Chun Kwok (Uppsala University), Family Fertility Norms (458)

This paper studies how couples' inherited family fertility norms, proxied by exposure to the fertility of parents and the extended family, jointly determine household fertility through intra-household bargaining. Using comprehensive Swedish administrative data, I show that both partners' extended family fertility outcomes significantly influence household fertility decisions, with relative influence determined by bargaining power. Results reveal three key findings. First, women exert 24-28% stronger influence on fertility decisions than men. Second, this gender gap substantially widens to 39-52% when women have above-average earning potential relative to partners, directly supporting the hypothesis that bargaining power mediates family norm transmission. Third, the intergenerational correlation extends to childlessness: a 1 pp increase in extended family childlessness raises household childlessness by 0.008 pp (women's family) and 0.003 pp (men's family) relative to a sample mean of 2.59%.