NEWSLETTER 2025|5

CALENDAR

Economics and Sustainability Seminar
Ludger Wößmann (ifo Institut München)

"Measuring Human Capital by Multidimensional Skills on LinkedIn Profiles: Investments, Earnings, and Gender Gaps"

Mon, Feb 3
14:15 - 15:30
H 26

IOS Seminar
Babak Jahanshahi (Queen's University Belfast)

"Exposure to PM2.5 and Mortality in the Isle of Ireland"

Tue, Feb 4
15:00 - 16:30
Zoom

Lunch Seminar
Sebastian Kunz (Universität Regensburg)

"Unequal Lifespans and Redistribution"

Wed, Feb 5
12:00 - 13:00
H 26

Economic and Social History Seminar
Theresa Neef (DIW Berlin)

"The Long Way to Gender Inequality: Gender Pay Differences in Germany, 1871-2021"

Wed, Feb 5
18:00 - 20:15
PT 1.0.6

Economics and Sustainability Seminar
Ludger Wößmann (ifo Institut München)

"Measuring Human Capital by Multidimensional Skills on LinkedIn Profiles:
Investments, Earnings, and Gender Gaps"

We measure human capital using the self-reported skill sets of nearly 9 million U.S. college graduates from professional profiles on LinkedIn. We aggregate skill strings into 48 clusters of general, specific, and managerial skills. Multidimensional skills can account for several important labor-market patterns. First, the number and composition of skills are systematically related to measures of human-capital investments such as education and work experience. The number of skills increases with experience, and the average age-skill profile closely resembles the well-established concave age-earnings profile. Second, workers who report more skills, especially specific and managerial ones, hold higher paid jobs. Skill differences account for more earnings variation than detailed measures of education and experience. Third, women show slower skill growth than men around typical ages of first motherhood. Gender differences in skills rationalize a substantial proportion of the gender gap in job-based earnings.

Info:
in person

IOS Seminar

Babak Jahanshahi (Queen's University Belfast)

"Exposure to PM2.5 and Mortality in the Isle of Ireland"

This paper assesses the relationship between PM2.5 exposure and mortality in Northern Ireland, a setting where pollution is low compared with most other countries. The study used data from a new linkage between the Northern Ireland Longitudinal Study (NILS), matched to pollution data at the 1km grid-square level and death events. The NILS is a longitudinal study that tracks a 28% representative sample of the Northern Ireland population drawn from the NI Health Card Registration System, which contains address histories updated biannually. The NILS is linked to several other administrative datasets including Census records for 2001 and 2011, which provided rich information on socioeconomic and demographic characteristics and contexts for sample members. The pollution data, matched at the residential property level to NILS participants, provided annual 1km grid-square modelled pollution data from 2002-2019 for some pollutants including PM2.5. These data were produced by Ricardo Energy & Environment for the UK Government's air quality assessments.

We apply two analytical methods to this data to better understand the relationship of interest: Cox proportional hazards models, and propensity score matching. Cox proportional hazards models reveal associations between mortality risk and PM2.5 exposure, though the magnitude of the effects depend on the specification. Without adjustment for measured characteristics, an interquartile range increase in the five-year moving average of exposure is associated with a relatively large increase in the hazard of mortality. This effect decreases after adjusting for prior individual-level demographic, socioeconomic and health-related factors and household-level factors; however, the hazard ratio remains above one and comparable with estimates from other studies. In further analysis, propensity score matching is used to assess whether, among those with similar levels of pre-move exposure, those who go on to move to areas with different pollution levels face different subsequent mortality risks. This analysis suggests that mortality risk is higher (lower) for those who move to a more (less) polluted area. This study offers evidence of mortality effects of PM2.5 from a setting where annual mean PM2.5 concentrations averaged roughly 8 micrograms per cubic metre over the study period. Therefore, we conclude that, consistent with similar studies in England, Canada, and European countries, Individuals with higher long-term exposure face additional mortality risk even in the context of exposure to low pollution.

Info:

Ivia Zoom-Meeting: https://ios-regensburg-de.zoom.us/j/69604929401?pwd=T7ypzj4yFjq9r4jYk25r8Gsr4p

Meeting ID: 696 0492 9401

Passcode: 308731

Lunch Seminar

Sebastian Kunz (Universität Regensburg)

"Unequal Lifespans and Redistribution"

Inequality in life expectancy across individuals is large, and it shows a strong correlation with income. But does this critical dimension of inequality, extending beyond income and wealth, call for additional fiscal redistribution? In this paper, we explore how systematic differences in life expectancy and health influence optimal fiscal redistribution. We propose a parsimonious modeling framework that allows us to immediately point to the mechanisms that shape the optimal fiscal tax and transfer system when individuals differ in their life expectancy. Theoretically, we demonstrate that heterogeneity in life expectancy alone prompts a utilitarian government to redistribute from individuals with shorter to those with longer life expectancy. However, if we consider that health status may also impact on the ability to enjoy late life consumption, this redistribution can be reversed. We then develop and calibrate a quantitative life-cycle model with heterogeneous agents that differ in income and health to study optimal fiscal redistribution through the pension system.

Info:
in person

Economic and Social History Seminar

Theresa Neef (DIW Berlin)

"The Long Way to Gender Inequality: Gender Pay Differences in Germany, 1871-2021"

This paper provides the first time series of the gender pay ratio in Germany since 1871, comparing developments with Sweden and the U.S. Despite slow progress during the industrialization period, the early 20th century saw significant leaps. Germany's pay ratio climbed from 47% in 1913 to 58% in 1937, paralleling increases in Sweden and the U.S. Improved female education and the expanding white-collar sector contributed to pay convergence. However, Germany's focus on vocational training slowed women's educational advancement compared to the U.S. Women transitioning from low-paid agricultural to higher-paid white-collar jobs primarily drove the gender pay ratio increase in Germany. The postwar period exhibited diverging trends due to different economic conditions and policies in Germany, Sweden, and the U.S.

Info:
in person

CONFERENCES, PRESENTATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL HISTORY SEMINAR Sebastian Pößniker canceled his lecture on Wednesday, January 29th due to illness. The lecture will be postponed to the summer semester. As a replacement Moritz Kaiser (Uni Tübingen) will talk about "Wage Determination and Employer Power in the Labour Market for Servants: Evidence from England and Wales, 1780–1834"

The next issue of **RegensburgEconNews** will be published at the beginning of the summer term (editorial deadline: April 16, 2025).