



Vorlesungsankündigung

Prof. Dr. Simon Lüchinger
(Universität Luzern)

Empirical Environmental Economics

1. Vorlesung: Air Pollution and Infant Mortality: A Natural Experiment from Power Plant Desulfurization

Abstract: The paper estimates the effect of SO₂ pollution on infant mortality in Germany, 1985-2003. To avoid simultaneity problems, I exploit the natural experiment created by the mandated desulfurization at power plants, with wind directions dividing counties into treatment and control groups. Instrumental variable estimates are larger than conventional estimates. Estimates translate into an elasticity of 0.08-0.13 and the observed reduction in pollution implies an annual gain of 895-1528 infant lives. There is some evidence for disproportionate effects on neonatal mortality for an increase in the number of infants with comparatively low birth weight and length.

Zeit: Mittwoch, 22. Juni 2011, 16.00 Uhr s.t.

Ort: Kaminzimmer, Boltzmannstr. 20, 14195 Berlin

2. Vorlesung: The Life Satisfaction Approach to Environmental Valuation

Abstract: In many countries environmental policies and regulations are implemented to improve environmental quality and thus individuals' well-being. However, how do individuals value the environment? In this paper, we review the Life Satisfaction Approach (LSA) representing a new non-market valuation technique. The LSA builds on the recent development of subjective well-being research in economics and takes measures of reported life satisfaction as an empirical approximation to individual welfare. Micro-econometric life satisfaction functions are estimated taking into account environmental conditions along with income and other covariates. The estimated coefficients for the environmental good and income can then be used to calculate the implicit willingness-to-pay for the environmental good.

Zeit: Montag, 27. Juni 2011, 18.00 Uhr s.t.

Ort: Kaminzimmer, Boltzmannstr. 20, 14195 Berlin

3. Vorlesung: Supporting Passenger Railways to Reduce Road Traffic Externalities

(im Rahmen des 'Research Seminar in Economics')

Abstract: Improvements in local public transportation are widely believed to reduce road traffic externalities by inducing a substitution in transportation modes. This paper supports this view using data from Germany. We use information on the growth of passenger service frequency on 551 regional passenger lines to estimate the causal effect of service quality on road traffic externalities. We exploit differences in service frequency growth by procurement mode following a railway reform to address endogeneity of service growth. An increase in service frequency reduces the number of road traffic accidents, emissions of nitrogen monoxide and nitrogen dioxide and infant mortality. Estimates for carbon monoxide and particulate pollution are negative but insignificant. Placebo regressions with sulfur dioxide and ozone yield no such effect.

Zeit: Donnerstag, 30. Juni 2011, 17:15 – 18:45 Uhr

Ort: Kaminzimmer, Boltzmannstr. 20, 14195 Berlin