

**„Aktuelle FF der Empirischen FiWi und Wipo / Aktuelle FF der Ökonometrie“  
(„Topics in Empirical Public Economics / Applied Microeconometrics”)  
WS 2018/19**

**Prof. Steiner / Fischer / Hügler**

**Aim of the seminar**

Each student is expected to write an empirical paper on empirical public economics/applied microeconometrics, broadly defined, and present it in the seminar. The paper may be a replication of an earlier study or an original study (more difficult). The replication study would also involve a critical assessment of the underlying assumptions, alternative specifications of regression equations, and alternative sample selections, and could also apply the methodology of a previous paper to another data set.

A brief introduction to the seminar and possible research topics (see list below) are presented by the organizers at the preliminary meeting (“Vorbereitung”). Own research topics may also be suggested by the student, if appropriate for the seminar.

Knowledge of microeconometrics at the level of the MSc Economics course “Applied Microeconometrics” is assumed.

**Requirements**

In addition to the preliminary meeting, there will be two meetings: In the first of these students will briefly present their research topic including a summary of previous research, the proposed methodology, data to be used, and perhaps already some preliminary descriptive analyses. In the second meeting the study will be presented and discussed. The final paper is due a couple of weeks after this second meeting. The paper and the presentation may be in English or German. The paper should be about 15 pages including figures and tables, relevant supplementary material can be included in an Appendix.

**Time table**

- **Preliminary meeting:** Tuesday, 16 October, 16:00 – 17:30, Boltzmannstr. 20, HS 328
- **Second meeting:** End of November (exact date to be determined at the preliminary meeting)
- **Third meeting:** Mid-February (exact date to be determined at the preliminary meeting)

Inquiries about the seminar to: [Benjamin.Fischer@fu-berlin.de](mailto:Benjamin.Fischer@fu-berlin.de) / [Dominik.Huegler@fu-berlin.de](mailto:Dominik.Huegler@fu-berlin.de)

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## Topics

- 1. Explaining changes in the German income distribution**  
Replicate parts of and/or update Biewen et al. (2016) using SOEP panel data and decomposition techniques
- 2. Educational assortative mating and the distribution of household incomes**  
Replicate/extend German part of Eika et al. (2017)
- 3. Labor market transitions over the business cycle**  
Estimate unemployment-employment transition models similarly to Nagore Garcia/van Soest (2015) using SOEP panel data before/ after the 2009 recession or before/after the labor market reforms 2003-2006
- 4. Labor market effects of parental leave policies**  
Replicate Bergemann/Riphahn (2017) using SOEP data
- 5. Disability, pension reform and early retirement in Germany**  
Replicate/extend extend Boersch-Supan and Juerges (2011); Hanel (2010) using more recent SOEP data
- 6. Long-term care insurance and female labor supply**  
Replicate/extend Geyer/Korfhage (2014) using SOEP data; structural labor supply model incorporating choice of formal/informal care
- 7. Overeducation/Educational mismatch**  
Replicate Boll and Leppin (2014) or Boll, Leppin and Schömann (2016)
- 8. Educational choices: Higher education enrolment**  
Replicate parts of Lauer (2000) or a simpler version of Fossen and Glocker (2011)
- 9. The creation and resolution of working hour discrepancies over the life course**  
Replicate Weber and Zimmer (2017) applying fixed effects logit.
- 10. Informal home care and labor-force participation of household members**  
Update Meng (2013) using SOEP panel data.

## References:

- Bergemann, A., R. T. Riphahn (2017): Maternal employment effects of parental leave policies. SOEPpapers 900 (Internet).
- Biewen, M., M. Ungerer, M. Löffler (2016): Trends in the German Income Distribution 2005/6 to 2010/11, SOEPpapers 889 (Internet).
- Boersch-Supan, Axel H., Hendrik Juerges (2011): Disability, Pension Reform and Early Retirement in Germany. NBER Working Paper No. 17079.
- Boll, C., Leppin, J.S., K. Schömann (2016): Who is overeducated and why? Probit and dynamic mixed multinomial logit analyses of vertical mismatch in East and West Germany. Education Economics, pages 639-662.
- Boll, C., Leppin, J.S., (2014): Overeducation among graduates: An overlooked facet of the gender pay gap? Evidence from East and West Germany. SOEPpapers 627 (Internet).
- Eika, L., M. Mogstad, B. Zafar (2017): Educational Assortative Mating and Household Income Inequality. Federal Reserve Staff Report No. 682 (Internet)
- Fossen, F.M., D. Glocker (2011): Expected future earnings, taxation and university enrolment. International Tax and Public Finance, pages 688-723.

- Geyer, J., T. Korfhage (2014): Long-term care insurance and carers' labor supply – a structural model, SOEPpapers 702 (Internet).
- Hanel, B. (2010): Disability Pensions and Labor Supply. BGPE Discussion Paper No. 86, University Erlangen-Nürnberg (Internet).
- Lauer, C. (2000): Enrolments in higher education in West Germany: The impact of social background, labour market returns and educational funding. ZEW Discussion paper.
- Meng, A. (2013): Informal home care and labor-force participation of household members. Empirical Economics, 44(2), 959-979.
- Nagore Garcia, A., A. van Soest (2015): New job matches and their stability before and during the crises. IZA DP No. 9574. <http://ftp.iza.org/dp9574.pdf>
- Weber, E., F. Zimmer (2017): The creation and resolution of working hour discrepancies over the life course. IAB-Discussion Paper 29/2017.