

# APPLIED ECONOMICS CONFERENCE: LABOUR, HEALTH, EDUCATION AND WELFARE

## BOOK OF ABSTRACTS

EDITORS

LARA LEBEDINSKI  
SUNČICA VUJIĆ

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**EDITORS**

**Lara Lebedinski**

**Sunčica Vujić**

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## Content

Keynote Speakers.....	5
Session A1: Working conditions and parental leave policies .....	6
Session A2: School tracking and RoSLA .....	10
Session B1: Gender and education .....	14
Session B2: Gender and labour market .....	18
Session C1: Labour .....	22
Session C2: Health.....	26
Session D: Unemployment and labour market tightness .....	31
Session E1: Household, gender and health .....	35
Session E2: Educational resources.....	40

## Keynote Speakers

[Andrea Ichino](#)

European University Institute, Italy

***College, cognitive ability, and socioeconomic disadvantage: policy lessons from the UK in 1960-2004?***

[Almudena Sevilla](#)

London School of Economics, United Kingdom

***Paradigm shifts in Gender Economics: A new era***

[Ludger Wößmann](#)

University of Munich, Germany

***Who Has Valuable Skills? Evidence from LinkedIn Profiles***

## **Session A1: Working conditions and parental leave policies**

# Working conditions and work pressure in primary education: Retention and attraction

## ABSTRACT

### **Tom Rongen**

*Research Centre for  
Education and the Labour  
Market, Maastricht  
University, Netherlands*

### **Luc Cobben**

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Market, Maastricht  
University, Netherlands*

### **Raymond Montizaan**

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Market, Maastricht  
University, Netherlands*

### **Frank Cörvers**

*Research Centre for  
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University, Netherlands*

Teacher shortages remain a long-lasting issue in Dutch education. Work pressure has proven to be an explanatory factor in this problem. The aim of our paper is to study the extent to which working conditions can play a role in retaining teachers and attracting former teachers in Dutch primary education. Moreover, we study the role of work pressure in the decision to stay or re-enter teaching given certain working conditions. By means of a vignette experiment, (former) teachers rate different sets of working conditions by indicating their chance to leave (re-enter) teaching. The choice for the six working conditions is based on the job demands-resources model proposed by Demerouti et al. (2001), where burnout is argued to be a consequence of high work pressure in combination with a lack of resources. We find that a wage increase and having assigned a teaching assistant are most effective in both retaining and attracting. Our results further show that teachers with a higher need for recovery, which is a result of work pressure, have a higher turnover intention. However, they show a sharper decrease in their intention to leave teaching when experiencing an increase in wage or a having assigned a teaching assistant.

## KEYWORDS

Working conditions  
Retention  
Attraction  
Vignette study

## JEL CLASSIFICATION

J45, J63, J81



# Eliciting and Shaping Beliefs about Shared Parental Leave: Evidence from a Survey Experiment

## ABSTRACT

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**Laura Fumagalli**

*University of Essex, United  
Kingdom*

**Sonkurt Sen**

*University of Bonn,  
Germany*

In this paper, we, first, analyze the beliefs about returns to Shared Parental Leave (SPL) week taken by fathers rather than mothers as a determinant of SPL take up decisions. Then, we study the impacts of an information intervention to understand whether providing information about the costs and benefits can improve individuals beliefs about returns to SPL weeks taken by the father. Finally, we analyze whether our intervention has any effect on individuals' support for public policy related to SPL and whether it impacts individuals SPL decisions. Our results show that respondents believe that shifting one week of parental leave from the mother to the father yields positive returns, increasing the probability of positive outcomes by 7 to 39%. Our intervention successfully shapes beliefs: increasing beliefs in returns for child academic performance by 12.9% and decreasing belief in returns for maternal depression by 15.5% (reducing likelihood of depression). The intervention does not seem to affect respondents' attitudes towards policies in support to SPL.

## KEYWORDS

Shared parental Leave  
Vignette study  
Public policy

## JEL CLASSIFICATION

I13, I18, J22, J24

# Impact of the Shared Parental Leave Policy Roll-Out in the UK on Take-Up and Length of Leave

## ABSTRACT

[Joanna Clifton-Sprigg](#)

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**Eleonora Fichera**

*University of Bath, United Kingdom*

**Melanie Jones**

*Cardiff University, United Kingdom*

**Egzi Kaya**

*Cardiff University, United Kingdom*

Family-friendly policies can be important for reducing gender inequalities in the labour market but their design and uptake by parents is crucial to success.<sup>1</sup> The UK ranks among the lowest across OECD and EU countries in terms of the financial attractiveness of its family-friendly policies (Chzhen et al., 2019). Introduced in April 2015, the UK's Shared Parental Leave (SPL) was designed to enable parents to share statutory paid leave, previously principally allocated to the mother. Qualitative research points towards low uptake of this policy due to poor financial coverage and complicated regulations (Birkett and Forbes, 2019). However, no causal analysis of its effects has been undertaken. This paper addresses this evidence gap. Focusing on uptake and the length of leave taken by fathers, we apply Regression Discontinuity in Time (RDIT) to UK Household Longitudinal Study (UKHLS) (ISER, 2023) data to consider the effect among all eligible and groups who might be expected to benefit disproportionately. We show that the reform has not affected uptake or length of paternal leave reinforcing questions as to its effectiveness.

## KEYWORDS

Parental leave reform  
RDIT

## JEL CLASSIFICATION

D1, H5, J1

## **Session A2: School tracking and RoSLA**

## School Tracking and Geographic Mobility: Evidence from Finland

### ABSTRACT

**[Ilpo Kauppinen](#)**

*Vatt Institute for Economic  
Research, Finland*

**Panu Poutvaara**

*Ludwig Maximilian  
University of Munich and  
ifo Institute, Germany*

**Teodora Tsankova**

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Netherlands*

There is wide cross-country variation in the relative importance of general versus vocational training at the secondary level of education. De-tracking reforms, which were widely implemented across Europe in the twentieth century, have substantially changed the type of skills taught in schools within country. In practice, such reforms harmonize the curriculum and offer more general training to students who would have otherwise ended up in a vocational track. We focus on the Finnish 1970s comprehensive school reform, which postponed the age of tracking from 10/11 to 15/16. Using the staggered implementation of the reform across Finnish regions, we investigate its effect on internal and international mobility in a difference-in-differences framework. Administrative panel data allow us to estimate medium- to long-term effects. We find that the reform reduced internal mobility in the short-run while it increased it in the long-run particularly for those coming from high SES background and urban centers. Labor market analysis shows that this mimics effects on employment outcomes.

### KEYWORDS

School reform  
Secondary education  
Internal migration

### JEL CLASSIFICATION

I21, J61, F22, J16

## Early tracking, grade retention, and learning inequalities: Revisiting studies using PISA data

### ABSTRACT

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**Thomas van Huizen**

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of Economics, Netherlands*

We argue theoretically and show empirically that curricular tracking and grade retention are closely linked. Using the PISA 2018 data on a sample of 33 European countries, we show that early tracking is associated with a higher probability of grade retention. Moreover, grade retention becomes more socially selective through tracking. As grade retention ultimately has negative effects on students, this finding introduces a new consideration into an already large and important discussion on early tracking and educational inequality of opportunity. Furthermore, our findings are relevant to previous research that utilizes age-based tests like PISA. Due to its age-based nature, PISA results are potentially driven by the higher grade retention in early tracking countries. Hence, we replicate two types of studies that use PISA and try to see how their results hold when we adjust the methodology to include grade-based samples. The results of more simple cross-sectional studies do not seem to be robust to our adjustments while those using difference-in-difference strategies are.

### KEYWORDS

Grade retention  
Curricular tracking  
Equality of opportunity  
PISA

### JEL CLASSIFICATION

I24

## Impact of Brazilian Compulsory Education Law: A Socioeconomic Exploration

### ABSTRACT

**Feiyang Shi**

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Compulsory education has long been on the agenda of governments for its argued impacts on human capital accumulation, but the attempts at impact evaluation of such policies are relatively recent and largely limited to the link between education and economic outcomes. This study is among the first to investigate a wide spectrum of economic, social and political outcomes following the implementation of a compulsory schooling law (CSL). It uses Brazil as a case study, exploits mostly the implementation of the 1971 Brazilian CSL and applies both static and dynamic models to investigate the impact of the CSL on the outcome variables. The results provide evidence for the positive role CSL plays in several income and employment outcomes. The CSL is also found to affect fertility choices and political participation. These effects can also vary based on the individual's socioeconomic characteristics, resulting in effects in terms of inequality. For example, the gender difference in terms of employment status seems to widen with higher exposure to the CSL, whereas the gap between the majority versus other racial groups closes in terms of education and certain marital decisions.

### KEYWORDS

Labour  
Education  
Gender  
Political participation  
Dynamic panel

### JEL CLASSIFICATION

J24, N36, J16, D72, C23

## **Session B1: Gender and education**

# Gender Differences in Self-Confidence and Labour Market Outcomes

**Britta Jensen**

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Research (IAB), Germany*

**Ipek Yükselen**

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Research (IAB), Germany*

## ABSTRACT

This paper investigates the role of confidence in explaining gender differences in several educational and labor market outcomes. We use data from the German National Educational Panel Study (NEPS) linked with social security data that follow individuals into the labor market and include measures of confidence in four domains: reading, ICT, science, and mathematics. We first show a significant gender gap in confidence across all domains that is not entirely explained by differences in ability. Our main results then show that women are more likely to enroll in university and enter female-dominated majors, vocational training, or jobs (hereafter fields), but less likely to participate in STEM and male-dominated fields. Overall, higher confidence in reading is associated with a lower likelihood of choosing STEM-related and male-dominated fields. Furthermore, an increase in confidence in science is associated with a decrease in university enrollment. However, increasing confidence in mathematics increases the sorting into STEM-related fields. The results on labor market outcomes show that women are less likely to work full-time and earn lower wages than men at labor market entry across the wage distribution. While higher confidence in reading reduces full-time employment and wages, especially in the lower wage quantiles, higher confidence in mathematics increases wages in the upper quantiles. These findings broaden our understanding of confidence in research by highlighting the need to examine confidence across domains, as different domains of confidence have different effects.

## KEYWORDS

Overconfidence  
Gender wage gap  
Labor market  
Conditional quantile  
regressions

## JEL CLASSIFICATION

I24, D91, J24, J16, J31



## Closing the Gender Gap: Evidence from Private School Participation in Free Secondary Education in Uganda

### ABSTRACT

**[Simeon Lauterbach](#)**

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This paper investigates the impact of Uganda's 2007 Universal Secondary Education (USE) policy, which eliminated tuition and registration fees in public and selected private secondary schools. Using a difference-in-differences and event-study design, this study reveals that female beneficiaries exposed to the policy completed at least 0.28 more years of schooling and were more likely to attend and complete lower secondary education. In addition, USE improved women's participation in skilled agricultural work, though it did not significantly affect overall skilled employment. Notably, education and labor market gains were more pronounced in areas with a higher prevalence of private USE-schools, compared to those with predominantly public USE-schools. The findings suggest that private low-cost schools more effectively respond to school market demands, in particular with regard to areas that have a higher share of female students. The paper highlights three main implications: it challenges the exclusivity of the public sector as the primary provider of secondary education, especially in addressing gender disparities; suggests that targeted subsidies in secondary education could be more efficient than uniform ones under resource constraints; and points out that fee reduction policies may not significantly impact skilled employment without further investment in post-secondary education and labor market initiatives.

### KEYWORDS

Secondary education  
Private schools  
Public-private  
partnership agreement  
Gender gap

### JEL CLASSIFICATION

I25, I26, J01

# Pathways to Progress: The Gender Roles and Intergenerational Educational Mobility in Turkey

[Elif Erbay](#)

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Turkey*

## ABSTRACT

This paper examines intergenerational educational mobility among females in Turkey, leveraging data from four waves of the Turkish Demographic and Health Surveys (TDHS) from 2003 to 2018 to quantify absolute mobility metrics. Our analysis reveals a significant upward trend in educational mobility for individuals born after 1985, largely attributable to extensive educational reforms aimed at increasing access to schooling. This trend is particularly pronounced in rural areas, suggesting that policy interventions have been effective in reducing regional disparities. In addition to highlighting the impact of educational expansion on mobility dynamics, this study explores the influence of regional, historical, and gender-specific factors. The findings contribute to the broader literature on educational mobility and underscore the importance of continued policy efforts to promote educational equity and socioeconomic advancement in developing countries.

## KEYWORDS

Intergenerational  
educational mobility  
Gender roles  
Educational expansion  
Turkey

## JEL CLASSIFICATION

I24, J63

## **Session B2: Gender and labour market**

# The Impact of Parental Socioeconomic Status on Labour Market Outcomes of Women and Men

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Serbia*

## ABSTRACT

This paper analyses the impact of parental socio-economic status (PSES) on the gender gaps and gendered labour market outcomes in Serbia. We study the gaps in monthly earnings and their three components: employment, hours worked, and hourly wages. We find higher employment for children of both genders of highly educated mothers and daughters of working mothers and working fathers. The effect on employment can be explained in line with stratification theory: higher parental human and financial capital increases education in the current generation and, consequently, their employment. We also find that children of highly educated mothers also have higher hourly wages. This effect cannot be explained within available data, either from the perspective of stratification theory or socialisation theory - via gender attitudes. Although we find that egalitarian gender attitudes are positively correlated with women's labour market outcomes, they do not affect PSES impact on labour market outcomes, or the gender gaps in these outcomes.

## KEYWORDS

Intergenerational  
transmission  
Gender  
Wages  
Employment  
Stratification and  
socialization  
Attitudes

## JEL CLASSIFICATION

J16, J21, J31, Z13, J62

# Household Decisions and the Gender Gap in Job Satisfaction

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Belgium, and Government  
of Alberta, Canada*

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## ABSTRACT

This paper offers a novel theoretical explanation for the gender gap in job satisfaction, where women typically report higher job satisfaction than men. We argue that rational family decisions can result in divergent job choices for women and men, leading to increased job satisfaction but lower earnings for women, even when their preferences and expectations align with those of men. We develop this explanation within a theoretical model of collective household decision-making that considers relative earnings disparities within households. We provide empirical evidence supporting our model's predictions utilizing survey and administrative data from Canada.

## KEYWORDS

Job satisfaction  
Gender gap  
Households

## JEL CLASSIFICATION

D13, J28, J16

# Exposing the Gap: Gender Inequality in Occupational Pension Coverage and Income across Europe

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*KU Leuven, Belgium*

**Sunčica Vujić**

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Belgium*

## ABSTRACT

This paper studies the gender gap in occupational pension coverage and income, across several European countries. Gender gaps in occupational pensions exceed those observed in public pensions, are characterized by differences in coverage between men and women and differ substantially across countries. Using data from the Survey of Health, Aging and Retirement (SHARE), this study delves into the determinants of these gaps and explores how differences in pension coverage may contribute to the resulting gender inequality in pension income. While our analysis reveals that labor market characteristics account for the gender gap in occupational pension coverage, they have minimal explanatory power for the gap in occupational pension income, despite gender neutral pension calculation rules. In addition, we find that occupational pensions are subject to positive selection. However, the effect of this selection on gender pension gaps is small.

## KEYWORDS

Retirement  
Gender inequality  
Decomposition analysis  
Occupational pensions

## JEL CLASSIFICATION

J31, J16, J26, J32

## **Session C1: Labour**

## Bargaining in the Labor Market

### ABSTRACT

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This paper introduces and validates a new survey tool to measure firms' wage bargaining strategies. Using the strategies we elicited for 772 German firms, we document that firms that do and do not individually bargain over wages are similar in productivity and size. However, firms' strategies systematically differ across groups of workers. We collect survey data from more than 10,000 workers to describe how bargaining events typically unfold. Many events consist of several rounds of back-and-forth negotiation and begin with workers providing their salary expectations. Most offers are rejected. High AKM person-effect individuals, less risk-averse individuals, and men are more likely to provide their expectations and to negotiate after an initial offer is made. These differences translate into sizable wage gaps at firms where pay is set by bargaining.

### KEYWORDS

Survey tool  
Wage bargaining  
Labor market  
Wage gaps

### JEL CLASSIFICATION

J31, J52, J33, D22



## The Production of Meaningful Work

### ABSTRACT

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Many people derive a sense of impact and purpose from their job – they consider work to be a source of meaning. But what makes work meaningful? The theoretical literature identified four pathways: *benefice* (the sense of making a positive impact), *autonomy* (freedom in decision making), *relatedness* (a connection to colleagues or one’s job), and *competence* (the use of talents and skills). In this paper, we empirically assess the importance of each pathway. First, we run an exploratory factor analysis, which confirms four orthogonal factors in our data consistent with the theoretical model. We then estimate a structural factor model and a production function to assess the importance of each factor in the production of work meaning. We find that *benefice* is the most important factor followed by *relatedness*, a standard deviation of which increases work meaning by roughly one half and one quarter of a standard deviation. *Competence* and *autonomy* matter less. Finally, we show that different benefits of work meaning relate to different pathways. Turnover intent and job satisfaction are more strongly related to *relatedness*, *competence*, and *autonomy*, whereas meaning in life is more strongly related to *benefice*. We find that women experience more work meaning than men. This gender gap is decreasing over the income distribution. This gender gap is driven by *benefice* and *relatedness*. The income gradient in the work meaning gender gap is driven by design and counteracted by *relatedness* and *benefice*.

### KEYWORDS

Meaningful work  
Non-monetary work  
conditions  
Production function  
Factor model  
Measurement error

### JEL CLASSIFICATION

D91, J32, D24

## How Green are Jobs for the Energy Transition?

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### ABSTRACT

“Green jobs” and “green skills” are often claimed to be essential for the energy transition. However, are the jobs needed for the energy transition really green? This paper reviews existing classifications and taxonomies that describe green jobs and green skills. Using data on changes in the demand for occupations in the Netherlands in response to planned investments in energy-transition technologies, we then assess the green content of occupations necessary to adopt these technologies. We show that only a minority of these jobs can be strictly defined as “green occupations”, and that most jobs needed for the energy transition mainly consist of non-green skills. Furthermore, digital skills seem to be more prevalent than green skills in such occupations.

### KEYWORDS

Energy transition  
Green jobs  
Green skills  
Labor market

### JEL CLASSIFICATION

J24

## **Session C2: Health**

## Career Arduousness and (Healthy) Life Expectancy in Europe

### ABSTRACT

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The main policy response to population ageing in advanced economies has been to raise the mandatory retirement age. However, these policies have reignited calls for differentiated retirement ages that consider variations in work arduousness. This paper uses microdata to explore the relevance and feasibility of this idea in Europe. It first quantifies career arduousness using SHARE wave 7 retrospective ISCO4-digit data on careers in combination with US O\*NET working conditions data. Then, using SHARE follow-up data collecting (bad)health and death information about wave 7 respondents, it estimates (healthy) life expectancy by career arduousness decile combining econometrics and life table methods. Findings reveal a life expectancy gap between the least and most arduous careers of 3.2 to 4.2 years. Healthy life expectancy differences are slightly larger, ranging from 5.3 to 9 years. On both metrics, women are slightly more impacted by arduousness. However, this paper also reveals significant variations in exposure to arduousness across genders and also countries. This suggests that compensatory retirement policies would benefit men more than women and be less common in countries with higher GDP per capita.

### KEYWORDS

Ageing  
Career arduousness  
(Healthy) life expectancy  
Retirement policy

### JEL CLASSIFICATION

J14, I1, J26

## Pension Schemes, Health Service Utilization, and Health: Evidence from China

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United Kingdom

### ABSTRACT

Using a non-parametric fuzzy regression discontinuity design and leveraging data from the China Health and Retirement Longitudinal Study (CHARLS), this study delves into the influence of pension disbursements – specifically, public and private pension schemes – on health service utilization and health outcomes among urban and rural individuals in China. Through longitudinal data analysis, our estimates show that receipt of public pension significantly improves self-reported health, mental health (CES-D scores) and physical health (ADL scores), particularly among urban males who are married and high-educated, while exhibiting no discernible effects on outpatient care utilization. Moreover, public pension benefits prove advantageous for healthcare utilization across the entire rural populace, especially for married and low-educated male residents. Conversely, no significant effects are discerned from private pension schemes on health service utilization, although they do exhibit positive impacts on health outcomes for income effect. Remarkably, within urban locales of China, the public pension payment engenders two distinct spillover effects: spousal and inter-generational. These findings exhibit heterogeneity across gender, rural-urban duality, Hukou status, and marital status. Additionally, health effects stemming from pension schemes can be explained through the "retirement consumption puzzle" and the impact mechanism arising from social activities and spillover effects. Finally, migrant rural residents experience differential impacts contingent upon the type of public pension schemes received.

### KEYWORDS

Public pension  
Private pension  
Fuzzy regression  
discontinuity  
Health service utilization  
Spillover effects

### JEL CLASSIFICATION

I1

# Working hours and workers' health: Evidence from a national experiment in Sweden

## ABSTRACT

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*University of Duisburg-  
Essen, Germany*

**Daniel Kühnle**

*University of Duisburg-  
Essen, Germany*

Regulating working hours is one of the oldest concerns of labor legislation due to its importance for safeguarding workers' physical and mental health and labor productivity. This study examines the impact of a trial in Sweden that significantly reduced working hours. We exploit the introduction across affected and non-affected occupations using a difference-in-differences model to identify the causal effect of reduced working hours on mortality. We show that reducing working hours decreased yearly mortality by around 12% and 25%, with effects primarily driven by reductions in work accidents and heart disease.

## KEYWORDS

Working hours

Health

Mortality

## JEL CLASSIFICATION

J28, J81

## Workplace Accidents and Alternative Work Arrangements

### ABSTRACT

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**Giovanni Mastrobuoni**

*University of Turin, Italy*

**Roberto Nisticò**

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*Federico II, Italy*

This study estimates the effect of extremely flexible labor market contracts (labor vouchers) on work-related injuries. We use administrative microdata on work injuries (INAIL) for the Tuscany region, leveraging the introduction of vouchers for the agricultural sector in 2008. Serious work-related injuries increase when more flexible labor contracts become available. We also combine INPS voucher users and AIDA firm-level balance sheet microdata to investigate the underlying mechanisms. Preliminary results suggest that the effect is driven by injuries of undeclared workers who sign vouchers right after the injury, in a last minute attempt to gain insurance coverage. Our findings are in line with those of Di Porto et al. (2022), who find that firms use vouchers to cover undeclared work.

### KEYWORDS

Workplace-related  
accidents

Labor market informality

Labor vouchers

Alternative working  
arrangements

Policy evaluation

### JEL CLASSIFICATION

J81, J83

## **Session D: Unemployment and labour market tightness**



## Labour Market Tightness and Hiring Outcomes

### ABSTRACT

[Lennart Ziegler](#)

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In this study, I explore a novel measure of labor market tightness and examine how tightness is related to various hiring outcomes. The analysis is based on detailed matched firm-vacancy-worker data from Austria, which are available for a large share of the labor market in recent years. To quantify the demand for vacant jobs, I exploit vacancy-level variation in the number of suitable jobseekers, which is inferred from job referrals made by the public employment service to jobseekers. Estimation results show that a higher number of suitable applicants is associated with both shorter vacancy filling duration and higher sectoral match quality of eventual hires. Effect sizes remain sizeable when I account for occupation- and firm fixed effects, or when I disregard vacancies for which a referred jobseeker was hired. Moreover, I find that labor market tightness can attenuate segregation by gender and nationality of workers. If the supply of suitable workers decreases, firms with higher shares of male workers are more likely to hire female workers, and firms with higher shares of Austrian workers are more likely to hire workers of foreign nationality.

### KEYWORDS

Labor market tightness  
Worker shortages  
Worker-firm match  
quality  
Worker segregation

### JEL CLASSIFICATION

J22, J62, J63, J71

# Local unemployment effects of a plant closure shock: A synthetic difference-in-differences analysis using Belgian data

## ABSTRACT

[Nick Deschacht](#)

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This paper studies the impact on local unemployment resulting from the closure of the Ford Genk plant in Belgium in December 2014. Ford Genk was the only major manufacturer in the region, and its closure caused a large shock to the local labour market and generated regional spillover effects. Our estimates using a synthetic difference-in-differences approach show that the Ford Genk plant closure increased unemployment in Genk and its surrounding areas by about 2 percentage points, and the local labour market took about one year to return to the pre-shock levels. These results show that the impact of plant closures on local labour markets can be absorbed relatively quickly even if the initial shock is substantial, which in the case of the Ford Genk closure could be attributed to the rapid and targeted policy response.

## KEYWORDS

Local unemployment  
Plant closures  
Spillover effects  
Synthetic difference-in-difference

## JEL CLASSIFICATION

J64, R12, R23

# Consumption during unemployment: a Synthetic Difference in Difference Approach using Bank Transaction Data

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## ABSTRACT

This study investigates household financial behaviors during unemployment spells in the Netherlands using high-frequency transaction data through an event study specification integrating propensity score matching. In our specification, we contrasted treated individuals, who underwent job loss, with non-treated individuals possessing comparable financial characteristics. The initial onset of unemployment triggers a substantial surge in income, primarily attributed to transition payments, but swiftly drops post-unemployment, with unemployment benefits covering slightly over half of former salary earnings. Despite a re-employment rate of around half within six months, the treatment group experiences a persistent average monthly earnings reduction of approximately 600 EUR by month. Spending patterns fluctuate significantly, surging before unemployment due to transition payments and declining below non-treated individuals post-unemployment, indicating challenges to fully smooth consumption after job loss. Furthermore, our study disentangles the effects of transition payments and liquidity holdings on spending, revealing that transition payments exert a more pronounced and prolonged impact on consumption smoothing than liquidity holdings. Transition payments significantly stimulate spending, particularly in pin and iDEAL categories, contrasting a much smaller relative spending impact of liquidity holdings.

## KEYWORDS

Consumption smoothing  
Severance pay  
Unemployment benefits

## JEL CLASSIFICATION

D14, J65, E21

## **Session E1: Household, gender and health**

## Overstretched: Financial Distress and Intimate Partner Violence in the U.S.

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### ABSTRACT

This paper evaluates the effect of households' financial distress on the incidence of intimate partner violence (IPV). Combining the timing of bank closures and the fixed schedule of payments, we identify months in which households are likely forced to stretch their finances for longer than expected because of changes in their regular payment schedule. Exploiting the exogeneity of such occurrences and using monthly records from the U.S. National Crime Victimization Survey, we then show that this kind of financial distress significantly increases the probability of women experiencing IPV. We additionally provide evidence of worsened financial conditions in the household during such periods, by documenting changes in households' consumption behaviour.

### KEYWORDS

Gender-related violence  
Violence against women  
Financial distress

### JEL CLASSIFICATION

J12, J16

# Marriage patterns in Russia: educational dimension of the regional mating markets

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## ABSTRACT

The paper aims to analyze the consequences of the gender-biased expansion of higher education for the marital status and educational assortative mating of Russians. The peculiarity of the analysis is that the effect of education is introduced at two levels: as an individual trait and as a feature of the regional marriage markets. Using multinomial logit regressions, we estimate the effect of a person's own education attainment on the likelihood of being married and the choice of a partner with a certain educational level. Changes in the educational composition of the regional marriage markets are an exogenous factor. Our findings suggest that men's level of education increases their chances of being married, while for women, a university degree does not worsen the chances to be married. The educational structure of the regional marriage markets only slightly correlates with union formation and has a more pronounced effect on educational sorting. Women's advantage in education fosters the already expanding tendency towards living in hypogamous union, i.e., the union in which husband is less educated than his wife. We find statistically significant evidence that the share of the highly educated population is associated with the educational sorting of men. The probability of matching with a more educated female partner increased as the share of university-educated people grew. However, the pace of the expansion of higher education was not statistically related to educational sorting for either gender.

## KEYWORDS

Higher education  
Marriage behaviour  
Educational assortative  
mating  
Gender  
Marriage market

## JEL CLASSIFICATION

J12, J26

## The impact of pollution on children's health

### ABSTRACT

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This paper estimates the causal effect of air pollution on children's respiratory health. Therefore, we link individual-level administrative healthcare records from primary care and emergency room visits with pollution monitor data and weather data in Catalonia (Spain) during 2013-2017. Spatio-temporal kriging techniques are used to correct misalignments and obtain complete time-by-location data on the pollution, pollen, and weather variables. We instrument for air pollution using the number of direction-specific wind gusts and Saharan dust and fog advection episodes. We compare the health effects of exposure to different air pollutants (CO, PM<sub>10</sub>, SO<sub>2</sub> and NO<sub>x</sub>). Exposure to particulate matter (PM<sub>10</sub>) yields the most significant adverse health effects, followed by CO and SO<sub>2</sub>. Our IV estimates suggest that an increase of 1 µg/m<sup>3</sup> or 4.5% in PM<sub>10</sub> increases children's overall respiratory health problems by 2.0%. This effect is entirely driven by lower respiratory illnesses (an increase of 2.4%), which have potentially more deleterious health effects than other respiratory conditions.

### KEYWORDS

Air pollution  
Health care use  
Respiratory illness  
Children

### JEL CLASSIFICATION

I12, Q53

## Health Effects of Free Textbooks in the Long-Run: Evidence from Turkey

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### ABSTRACT

Obesity remains a major global health issue, and education is known to play a crucial role in shaping individual health outcomes. This paper examines an education reform introduced in Turkey in 2002, which addressed a barrier to education: the availability of textbooks. The policy aimed to provide free textbooks to ensure that all students had access to quality learning materials. Using a sharp regression discontinuity design based on primary school enrollment cutoff dates, the I find that individuals who received free textbooks have better long-term health outcomes. Specifically, by ages 26-28, they have lower BMI by 1.49, are less likely to be obese or overweight, and are more likely to engage in regular exercise, although there is no impact on smoking. These effects on BMI are observed across both high and low SES groups, but the increase in exercise is mainly driven by individuals from high SES backgrounds.

### KEYWORDS

Textbooks  
Access to resources  
Return to education  
Health outcomes

### JEL CLASSIFICATION

I12, I21, I28



## **Session E2: Educational resources**

# Uncertainty and Educational Expenditure in Contemporary Europe

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## ABSTRACT

In this paper, we present a conceptual framework and a theoretical model to argue that education could be used as a tool to lower the variability of future income from labor. We then examine how surveyed household and business uncertainty impacted educational expenditures of governments and households within a sample of 20 member states of the European Union from 2005 to 2021. We present evidence that the effect of uncertainty on expenditure on human capital formation is different from its effect on consumption and investments. In agreement with predictions of our theoretical model, we find a positive impact of uncertainty experienced by businesses and households on various levels of educational expenditures for government and households. We moreover find evidence of the importance of culture in the uncertainty-educational expenditure relationship. Our findings suggest that investment into culture and into programs which subsidize households' expenditures on education have the potential to improve economic stability and long-term growth prospects of the European nations.

## KEYWORDS

Educational expenditure  
Uncertainty  
Human capital

## JEL CLASSIFICATION

I22, D81, E22

# Bringing Tutors into Students' Homes? An Online Tutoring Intervention with Low-Performing Students

## ABSTRACT

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This study investigates the effectiveness of an online tutoring program for low-performing students in Germany. The program provided tutors from a pool of volunteer university students who offered online tutoring for free. In a randomized experiment involving 839 secondary school students, our results show that online tutoring had positive effects on school grades in Math and English eight months after initiation, with treatment-on-the-treated (ToT) effects comparable to those of in-person tutoring programs. Our mechanism analysis reveals no impact on students' socio-emotional skills, effort, study time, or aspirations, suggesting potential improvements in learning efficiency or content understanding. Our findings provide evidence that online tutoring is an effective, flexible, and cost-efficient method for supporting low-performing students, which can be easily implemented at large scale.

## KEYWORDS

Online Tutoring  
RCT  
Disadvantaged Youth

## JEL CLASSIFICATION

C93, I20, I24

# Determinants of Entrepreneurial Intentions among Serbian Students – Theory of Planned Behaviour

## ABSTRACT

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Following the foundations of the Theory of Planned Behavior, the aim of the research was to detect factors relevant for the one's decision to start entrepreneurial career including socio-demographic data, attitudes, education, extracurricular activities and aversion to risk. Online questionnaire has been sent out to undergraduate university students from Serbia enrolled at faculties of social science and humanities. The total sample includes 1.336 participants. Binary logistic regression modelling has been applied to identify the relationship between EI and the selected independent variables. Research results show that around one in five students confirmed their intention to set up their own business following the completion of undergraduate studies. Decision to engage in entrepreneurial activities is likely to be highly determined by gender, current working status, and risk perception. On the other hand, institutional trust and life satisfaction indicators including some aspects of social capital such as membership in students' organizations, or number and quality of friendships have not been confirmed as particularly important. Apart from evidence on the current entrepreneurial aspirations, the research revealed needs for providing systemic support for creating more favorable entrepreneurial environment including greater support to female entrepreneurs.

### ***Acknowledgement***

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## KEYWORDS

Entrepreneurial  
intention  
Youth  
Students  
Theory of planned  
behavior  
Serbia

## JEL CLASSIFICATION

D91, L26, J13

# Was Your Degree Worth It? Heterogenous Returns to College Majors and Skill Mismatch

## ABSTRACT

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Was your degree worth it? On average, returns to college are significant and positive. However, there is a large degree of heterogeneity in returns. College major choices and skill mismatch are among the main determinants. In this paper, we estimate the returns to college majors and the impact of mismatch using a dynamic model of joint educational choices and labor market outcomes, controlling for unobserved heterogeneity. We identify the latter using a set of exclusion restrictions, including local labor market conditions and peer effects. Despite each college major providing average positive returns, a sizeable fraction of individuals receive low or negative returns. Skill mismatch accounts for most of these negative returns, because of significant mismatch penalties.

## KEYWORDS

Skill mismatch  
Dynamic discrete choice  
model  
Return to education  
Heterogeneous returns

## JEL CLASSIFICATION

I26, J24

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