



ALFRED-WEBER-INSTITUT FÜR WIRTSCHAFTSWISSENSCHAFTEN
BERGHEIMER STR. 58, 69115 HEIDELBERG, TEL. 06221/54-2941, FAX: 06221/54-3592
REDAKTION: FREYA SCHADT, EMAIL: NEWSLETTER@AWI.UNI-HEIDELBERG.DE

AWI This Week

Monday, 23. 05. 11 Departmental Seminar

17.15-18.45 Daniel John Zizzo, UEA
AWI 00.010 "Objectives and Confounds in Economic Experiments"

Wednesday, 25. 05. 11 Departmental Workshop

17.15-18.45 Daniel Römer, University of Heidelberg
AWI 00.010 "Juvenile Law and Recidivism in Germany - New Evidence
from the Old Continent "

Jour Fixe

The AWI JOUR FIXE takes place at the Lounge on a weekly basis on Mondays from 16:30 till 17:15 (i.e., just before the departmental seminar). There you will have the opportunity to meet the speaker, enjoy a coffee, and exchange news and discuss research with other members of the AWI.

Departmental Seminar

Daniel John Zizzo

"Objectives and Confounds in Economic Experiments"

The key general problem in design, evaluating and defending an experimental design is to determine whether there are factors affecting experimental behavior that are not being duly taken into account by the researcher. This methodological presentation will consider, in general terms and with examples, when a critique of an experiment as being affected by a serious confound has a prima facie appeal, and what are the defences and strategies that can be adopted when this criticism is received. I take a functional perspective of confounds: what matters is the relationship between experimental objectives and potential confounds.

Departmental Workshop

Daniel Römer

"Juvenile Law and Recidivism in Germany - New Evidence from the Old Continent" *

Using a unique sample of German inmates, we analyze the dependence of recidivism on juvenile and criminal law. First, we jointly model the selection and the recidivism equation in a bivariate probit model. In a second step we use the discontinuities in assignment created by German legislation and apply a (fuzzy) regression discontinuity design. In contrast to the bulk of the literature, which mainly relies on US data, we do not find that the application of criminal law increases juvenile recidivism. Rather, our results suggest that sentencing adolescents as adults reduces recidivism in Germany.

* with Stephan Pichler

Talks and Research Visits

Hans Diefenbacher gave a lecture on "Indikatoren und Leitbilder" during the Workshop "Theorie(n) der Nachhaltigkeit" of the Institute for Advanced Sustainability Studies (IASS), Potsdam, on Mai 4.

Hans Diefenbacher was invited to present the "National Welfare Indicator" to the Enquête-Kommission "Wachstum, Wohlstand, Lebensqualität", Deutscher Bundestag Berlin, on Mai 9.

Miscellaneous

We are very happy to announce that JunProf. Christina Gathmann, Ph.D. (University of Mannheim) has accepted an offer for a W3-professorship in "Labor Markets / New Political Economy" at the AWI. She will take up the position in Fall 2011. The position has previously been held by Prof. Hans Gersbach.

**Editorial deadline for issue 12/2011 of the newsletter:
Wednesday, May 25, 2011, 12 o'clock
newsletter@awi.uni-heidelberg.de**

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please contact the address above