

Topics in Economics of Education

Description

Today it is widely recognized that education is enormously important to economic success in our modern knowledge-based world, not only for individuals, but for nations. Governments actively promote economic growth through large investments in education and training and substantial research has gone into identifying determinants of educational achievement which can be controlled by policy. However, there still exists a large uncertainty about whether specific education policies indeed promote the development of skills.

The aim of the seminar is to familiarize students with recent insights from the Economic literature on the effectiveness of various policy levers. Topics to be covered include class-size, teacher quality, teaching practices, e-learning, grade retention, performance incentives, accountability systems, central exams, school choice and competition, educational tracking, early childhood education and adult education programs.

Prerequisites

Econometrics I (required), Applied Econometrics (desirable)

Schedule

The seminar will take place as a block seminar on **June 27 and June 28, 2014**.

Assessment

For B.Sc. Economics students: presentation of the outline in class and bachelor thesis in the following semester. Students of other programs: completed seminar paper at the time of the seminar.

Topics and Introductory Literature

1. Class-size

Angrist, Joshua D., Victor Lavy (1999). Using Maimonides' Rule to Estimate the Effect of Class Size on Scholastic Achievement. *Quarterly Journal of Economics* 114 (2): 533-575.

Hoxby, Caroline M. (2000). The Effects of Class Size on Student Achievement: New Evidence from Population Variation. *Quarterly Journal of Economics* 115 (4): 1239-1285.

Krueger, Alan B. (1999). Experimental Estimates of Education Production Functions. *Quarterly Journal of Economics* 114 (2): 497-532.

2. Teacher Quality

Rivkin, Steven G., Eric A. Hanushek, John F. Kain (2005). Teachers, Schools, and Academic Achievement. *Econometrica* 73 (2): 417-458.

Jacob, Brian A, Lars Lefgren (2008). Can Principals Identify Effective Teachers? Evidence on Subjective Performance Evaluation in Education. *Journal of Labor Economics* 26 (1): 101-136.

Rothstein, Jesse (2010). Teacher Quality in Educational Production: Tracking, Decay, and Student Achievement. *Quarterly Journal of Economics* 125 (1): 175-214.

3. Teaching Practices

Kane, Thomas J., Eric S. Taylor, John H. Tyler, Amy L. Wooten (2011). Identifying Effective Classroom Practices Using Student Achievement Data. *Journal of Human Resources* 46 (3):587-613.

Lavy, Victor (2011). What Makes an Effective Teacher? Quasi-Experimental Evidence. NBER Working Paper No. 16885.

Schwerdt, Guido, Amelie C. Wuppermann (2011). Is Traditional Teaching really all that Bad? A Within-Student Between-Subject Approach. *Economics of Education Review* 30 (2): 365-379.

4. E-learning

Angrist, Joshua, Viktor Lavy (2002). New Evidence on Classroom Computers and Pupil Learning. *The Economic Journal* 112(482): 735-765.

Fairlie, Robert W., Rebecca A. London (2012). The Effects of Home Computers on Educational Outcomes: Evidence from a Field Experiment with Community College Students. *The Economic Journal* 122(561): 727-753.

Figlio, David, Mark Rush, Lu Yin (2013). Is it Live or is it Internet? Experimental Estimates of the Effects of Online Instruction on Student Learning. *Journal of Labor Economics* (forthcoming).

5. Performance Incentives

Fryer, Roland (2012). Financial Incentives and Student Achievement: Evidence from Randomized Trials. *Quarterly Journal of Economics* 126(4): 1755-1798.

Woessmann, Ludger (2011). Cross-country Evidence on Teacher Performance Pay. *Economics of Education Review* 30 (3): 404-418.

Leuven, Edwin, Hessel Oosterbeek, Bas van der Klaauw (2010). The Effect of Financial Rewards on Students' Achievement: Evidence from a Randomized Experiment. *Journal of the European Economic Association* 8 (6): 1243-1265.

6. Grade Retention

Jacob, Brian, A., Lars. Lefgren (2009). The Effect of Grade Retention on High School Completion. *American Economic Journal: Applied Economics* 1 (3): 33-58.

Manacorda, M. (2012). The Cost of Grade Retention. *Review of Economics and Statistics* 94 (2): 596-606.

Schwerdt, Guido, Martin R. West (2013). The Effects of Test-based Retention on Student Outcomes over Time: Regression Discontinuity Evidence from Florida. CESifo Working Paper 4203, CESifo Group Munich.

7. School-focused Accountability Systems

Chiang, Hanley (2009). How accountability pressure on failing schools affects student achievement. *Journal of Public Economics* 93 (9): 1045--1057.

Jacob, Brian A. (2005). Accountability, Incentives and Behavior: The Impact of High-stakes Testing in the Chicago Public Schools. *Journal of Public Economics* 89 (5-6): 761-796.

West, Martin R., Paul E. Peterson (2006). The Efficacy of Choice Threats within School Accountability Systems: Results from Legislatively-Induced Experiments. *Economic Journal* 116 (510): C46-C62.

8. Central Exams

Jürges, Hendrik, Kerstin Schneider, Felix Büchel (2005). The Effect of Central Exit Examinations on Student Achievement: Quasi-Experimental Evidence from TIMSS Germany. *Journal of the European Economic Association* 3 (5): 1134-1155.

Bishop, John H., Ludger Woessmann (2004). Institutional Effects in a Simple Model of Educational Production. *Education Economics* 12 (1): 17-38.

Piopiunik, Marc, Guido Schwerdt, Ludger Woessmann (2013). Central school exit exams and labor-market outcomes. *European Journal of Political Economy* 31 (C): 93-108.

9. School Choice and School Competition

Abdulkadiroglu, Atila, Joshua Angrist, Susan Dynarski, Thomas J. Kane, Parag Pathak (2011). Accountability and Flexibility in Public Schools: Evidence from Boston's Charters and Pilots. *Quarterly Journal of Economics* 126 (2): 699-748.

Angrist, Joshua D., Eric Bettinger, Michael Kremer (2006). Long-Term Educational Consequences of Secondary School Vouchers: Evidence from Administrative Records in Colombia. *American Economic Review* 96 (3): 847-862.

West, Martin R., Ludger Woessmann (2010). 'Every Catholic Child in a Catholic School': Historical Resistance to State Schooling, Contemporary School Competition, and Student Achievement across Countries. *Economic Journal* 120 (546): F229-F255.

10. Educational Tracking

Hanushek, Eric A., Ludger Woessmann (2006). Does Early Tracking Affect Educational Inequality and Performance? Differences-in-Differences Evidence across Countries. *Economic Journal* 116 (510): C63-C76.

Meghir, Costas, Mårten Palme (2005). Educational Reform, Ability and Family Background. *American Economic Review* 95 (1): 414-424.

Pekkarinen, Tuomas, Roope Uusitalo, Sari Kerr (2009). School Tracking and Intergenerational Income Mobility: Evidence from the Finnish Comprehensive School Reform. *Journal of Public Economics* 93 (7-8): 965-973.

11. Early Childhood Education Programs

Ludwig, Jens, Douglas L. Miller (2007). Does Head Start Improve Children's Life Chances? Evidence from a Regression Discontinuity Design. *Quarterly Journal of Economics* 122 (1): 159-208.

Belfield, Clive R., Milagros Nores, Steve Barnett, Lawrence Schweinhart (2006). The High/Scope Perry Preschool Program. *Journal of Human Resources* 41 (1): 162-190.

Cascio, Elizabeth U. (2009). Do Investments in Universal Early Education Pay Off? Long-term Effects of Introducing Kindergartens into Public Schools. NBER Working Paper 14951. Cambridge, MA: National Bureau of Economic Research

12. Training and Adult Education

Card, David, Jochen Kluve, Andrea Weber (2010). Active labor market policy evaluations: a metaanalysis. *Economic Journal* 120 (548): F452–F477.

Schwerdt, Guido, Dolores Messer, Ludger Woessmann, Stefan C. Wolter (2012). The impact of an adult education voucher program: Evidence from a randomized field experiment. *Journal of Public Economics* 96 (7-8): 569-583.

Stenberg, Anders (2011). Using longitudinal data to evaluate publicly provided formal education for low skilled. *Economics of Education Review* 30 (6): 1262–1280.