

# BONN ECON NEWS

**April 15–19, 2024**

## Overview

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### Workshops and seminars

Tuesday, April 16, 2024

IZA Guest Seminar

Ashley Wong (Tilburg University)

“Peer Effects and the Gender Gap in Corporate Leadership: Evidence from MBA Students”

Wednesday, April 17, 2024

BGSE Micro Workshop

Kun Zhang (University of Queensland)

“From Design to Disclosure”

MEF/ECONtribute Seminar (Macro/Econometrics/Finance)

Jeanne Commault (Sciences Po)

“Heterogeneity in MPC Beyond Liquid Wealth: The Role of Permanent Earnings”

Finance/CRC Seminar

Rebecca de Simone (London Business School)

“Opening the Brown Box: Production Responses to Environmental Regulation”

Micro Theory Seminar

Zvika Neeman (Tel Aviv University)

“Deterrence of Unwanted Behavior: a Theoretical and Experimental Investigation”

Thursday, April 18, 2024

Econometrics & Statistics

Rahul Singh (Harvard University)

“Causal Inference with Corrupted Data: Measurement Error, Missing Values, Discretization, and Differential Privacy”

## Workshops and seminars

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Tuesday, April 16, 2024

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### IZA Guest Seminar

Ashley Wong  
(Tilburg University)

"Peer Effects and the Gender Gap in Corporate Leadership:  
Evidence from MBA Students"

#### Coauthors

Menaka Hampole, Francesca Truffa

#### Time

16:00–17:00 CET

#### Location

Schaumburg-Lippe-Straße 9 (IZA SLS 9  
conference room)

#### Abstract

Women continue to be underrepresented in corporate leadership positions. This paper studies the role of social connections in women's career advancement. We investigate whether access to a larger share of female peers in business school affects the gender gap in senior managerial positions. Merging administrative data from a top-10 US business school with public LinkedIn profiles, we first document that female MBAs are 24 percent less likely than male MBAs to enter senior management within 15 years of graduation. Next, we use the exogenous assignment of students into sections to show that a larger proportion of female MBA section peers increases the likelihood of entering senior management for women but not for men. This effect is driven by female-friendly firms, such as those with more generous maternity leave policies and greater work schedule flexibility. A larger proportion of female MBA peers induces women to transition to these firms where they attain senior management roles. We find suggestive evidence that some of the mechanisms behind these results include job referrals and gender-specific information transmission. These findings highlight the role of social connections in reducing the gender gap in senior management positions.

### BGSE Micro Workshop

<p>Kun Zhang (University of Queensland)</p>	<p>"From Design to Disclosure"</p>
<p>Coauthors S. Nageeb Ali, Andreas Kleiner</p> <p>Time 12:00–13:00 CET</p> <p>Location Juridicum, Reinhard Selten Room (0.017)</p>	<p>Abstract</p> <p>This paper studies voluntary disclosure in general sender–receiver games in which the sender has rich evidence that she can disclose to a receiver who then can set an allocation and transfers. This general framework encompasses monopoly pricing, bargaining over policies, and insurance markets. In this setting, we characterize the full set of equilibrium payoffs. Our main result establishes that any payoff profile that can be achieved through information design can also be sustained as an equilibrium of the disclosure game. Hence, in the contracting environments that we study, our analysis offers a microfoundation for information design and suggests that the gap between information design and disclosure is negligible.</p>

### MEF/ECONtribute Seminar (Macro/Econometrics/Finance)

<p>Jeanne Commault (Sciences Po)</p>	<p>"Heterogeneity in MPC Beyond Liquid Wealth: The Role of Permanent Earnings"</p>
<p>Time 12:15–13:30 CET</p> <p>Location Juridicum, Faculty Meeting Room (U1.040)</p>	<p>Abstract</p> <p>The distribution of marginal propensities to consume (MPCs) is central to the transmission of shocks and policies to the economy. Recent empirical findings challenge the standard view that this distribution is mostly explained by liquidity constraints: (i) some people with substantial liquid wealth have a high MPC; (ii) current earnings, which should relax the constraint, do not reduce the MPC. I show that, in the standard consumption model, the permanent component of earnings is another important determinant of the MPC and its impact can explain (i)–(ii). An increase in the permanent component mechanically raises the magnitude of future earnings shocks, thus the risk that people face, forcing them to save more and making them more responsive to a windfall. Survey data support a large and positive effect of permanent earnings on the MPC. Numerical simulations can replicate quantitatively those survey findings in a model with rich earnings risk.</p>

## Finance/CRC Seminar

<p>Rebecca de Simone (London Business School)</p>	<p>"Opening the Brown Box: Production Responses to Environmental Regulation"</p>
<p>Coauthors Lakshmi Naaraayanan, Kunal Sachdeva</p> <p>Time 14:45–16:00 CET</p> <p>Location Juridicum, Faculty Lounge (0.036)</p> <p>Hybrid <a href="https://uni-bonn.zoom.us/j/95735374743?pwd=T3BYbWt1bVZNelkvcDV3SUcxUlkrUT09">https://uni-bonn.zoom.us/j/95735374743?pwd=T3BYbWt1bVZNelkvcDV3SUcxUlkrUT09</a></p>	<p>Abstract</p> <p>We study production responses to an emission capping regulation on manufacturing firms. We find that firms reduce pollution by electrifying their production, producing less coal-intensive products, and increasing their abatement expenditures. Firms preserve profitability by increasing their production of higher-margin products. However, firms in highly polluting industries produce fewer products. In the aggregate, we document lower product variety, an altered firm-size distribution, and lower business formation. Our findings highlight the mechanisms behind how mandated pollution reduction can be effective and its costs, suggesting a loss in agglomeration externalities.</p>

## Micro Theory Seminar

<p>Zvika Neeman (Tel Aviv University)</p>	<p>"Deterrence of Unwanted Behavior: a Theoretical and Experimental Investigation"</p>
<p>Coauthors Penélope Hernández, Ro'i Zultan</p> <p>Time 16:30–17:45 CET</p> <p>Location Juridicum, Faculty Meeting Room (U1.040)</p>	<p>Abstract</p> <p>Suppose that spreading enforcement resources uniformly across time and space allows sanctioning anyone who engages in an unwanted activity with probability <math>p</math>. However, by concentrating enforcement resources, it is possible to split the probability <math>p</math> into a higher probability of sanction <math>p_H &gt; p</math> in some targeted areas or times, at the expense of a lower probability of sanction <math>p_L &lt; p</math> elsewhere. If the objective is to minimize the overall level of the socially unwanted activity, irrespective of its specific location or time, does splitting the probability of sanction <math>p</math> help achieve this goal? We present a theoretical model of this situation, and undertake an experiment that allows us to answer this question empirically. Since the idea of beneficial splitting of prior beliefs is central to Bayesian persuasion literature, our investigation presents an experimental investigation into whether Bayesian persuasion can indeed yield practical benefits in a realistic parametrized setting.</p>

## Econometrics & Statistics

Rahul Singh  
(Harvard University)

"Causal Inference with Corrupted Data: Measurement Error, Missing Values, Discretization, and Differential Privacy"

Coauthor

Anish Agarwal

Time

15:15–16:15 CET

Location

Juridicum, Faculty Lounge (0.036)

Abstract

The US Census Bureau will deliberately corrupt data sets derived from the 2020 US Census, enhancing the privacy of respondents while potentially reducing the precision of economic analysis. To investigate whether this trade-off is inevitable, we formulate a semiparametric model of causal inference with high dimensional corrupted data. We propose a procedure for data cleaning, estimation, and inference with data cleaning-adjusted confidence intervals. We prove consistency and Gaussian approximation by finite sample arguments, with a rate of  $n^{1/2}$  for semiparametric estimands that degrades gracefully for nonparametric estimands. Our key assumption is that the true covariates are approximately low rank, which we interpret as approximate repeated measurements and empirically validate. Our analysis provides nonasymptotic theoretical contributions to matrix completion, statistical learning, and semiparametric statistics. Calibrated simulations verify the coverage of our data cleaning-adjusted confidence intervals and demonstrate the relevance of our results for Census-derived data.