



Upcoming Seminars

Monday, 8.5.2017

Departmental Seminar

17.15-18.15

Saverio Simonelli, University of Naples

AWI 00.010

(invited by Fabian Krüger)

"Labor Productivity through the Lens of an Electoral Task"

Abstracts

Departmental Seminar

Saverio Simonelli

"Labor Productivity through the Lens of an Electoral Task"*

We measure labor productivity in a simple, uniform, low-skill task, using naturally-occurring data from the 2013 Italian general election and two referenda in 2016. We translate vote-counting times at polling stations across nearly 8,000 municipalities into units of labor productivity. The setting is particularly insightful for regional productivity comparisons as the task involves nearly no technology and requires limited physical and human capital. The task is uniform, as are electoral volunteers' pecuniary incentives. Vote counting rates are highly correlated with provincial level value added per worker in firms. Using a simple development accounting framework, this measure can explain 30% of the firm-level productivity dispersion across Italian provinces and explain nearly half the north-south productivity gap in Italy. We explore potential drivers of our measure labor efficiency; we find that its association with measures of work ethic and trust are particularly strong.

*with Ethan Ilzetzki

Talks and Research Visits

Timo Goeschl was part of the 2nd meeting of the expert working group on marine geoengineering at the *International Meteorological Organization*, Geneva, April 26-27.

Valentin Lang presented his paper "Room for Discretion? Biased Decision Making in International Financial Institutions" at the European Public Choice Society (EPCS) Conference, at CEU in Budapest on April 19-22.

Valentin Lang presented his paper "The Distribution of Gains from Globalization" at the FHM Development Workshop at Frankfurt University on April 11.

Timo Goeschl presented the paper: "Global Problems, local bias?" at the Environmental Economics Workshop at IPAG, Paris, April 3.

New Working Papers

Clive Bell and Magnus Hatlebakk: "Usufructuary Mortgages as a Source of Funds in Need: Some Theory and an Empirical Investigation", AWI Discussion Paper Series No. 631, April 2017.

New Publications

Diederich, J., & Goeschl, T. (2017). To Mitigate or Not to Mitigate: The Price Elasticity of Pro-Environmental Behavior. *Journal of Environmental Economics and Management*. Forthcoming.

**Editorial deadline for issue 10/2017 of the newsletter:
Wednesday, May 10, 2017, 12 p.m.
newsletter@awi.uni-heidelberg.de**

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please contact the address above.