



Upcoming Seminars

Tuesday, 5.12.2017

Economics and Politics Seminar

13.45-14.45

Tobias Seidel, University of Duisburg-Essen, MSM

AWI 01.030

"Fiscal equalization in the global economy"

Wednesday, 6.12.2017

Internal Seminar

12.15-13.15

Katharina Richert

AWI 00.010

"Evaluating the Impact of the WHO's Safe Childbirth Checklist in Indonesia – A Randomized Controlled Trial"

Abstracts

Economics and Politics Seminar

Tobias Seidel

"Fiscal equalization in the global economy"

We use a general equilibrium model with fiscal equalization to show that regional transfers are quantitatively important for understanding the spatial allocation of economic activity. The model highlights two important features. First, the strength of the dispersion of income is important. Transferring income from rich to poor regions raises welfare as one percent of the income in donor regions helps to increase income in recipient regions by more than one percent. This effect rises in the dispersion of income. Second, geography matters. If recipients are located in the periphery, one unit of income buys less utility there due to a higher price index. We find that the abolishment of fiscal equalization in Germany would lead to a moderate welfare gain of about 0.33 percent implying migration of about 5 percent of the population in the long run. The increases in average real GDP per capita and average labor productivity are more pronounced at 5.8 percent and 9.2 percent, respectively.

Internal Seminar

Katharina Richert

"Evaluating the Impact of the WHO's Safe Childbirth Checklist in Indonesia – A Randomized Controlled Trial"*

Reductions of maternal and child mortality are remaining high on the global development policy agenda and they are part of the newly formulated Sustainable Development Goals. While in the past decade, there has been progress this has been insufficient to reach the goals set in the MDGs. The rates of institutional deliveries increased in the past years, but Indonesia, and Aceh province in particular, still suffers from high maternal and neonatal mortality rates. The birth process continues to be a critical and highly risky period in mothers' and children's lives and accounts for half of all child deaths. Progress in reducing mortality rates, thus, crucially depends on improvements during this critical period of life, which mostly rely on safe childbirth as well as pre- and postnatal care. Integration of checklists into clinical practice has been shown to reduce deaths and complications in intensive care medicine and surgery. Based on these success stories, the WHO developed the Safe Childbirth Checklist – a tool that targets the major causes of maternal and newborn mortality while being cost-effective at the same time and hence easily adaptable in low-resource settings. We introduced and evaluated the instrument in 16 randomly chosen health institutions in Aceh province from a total sample of 32 facilities and covered approximately 5000 deliveries over the study period of six months. We used a re-randomization approach to increase the power of our results. The design allows us to causally identify the effects of the checklist introduction on the performance of essential childbirth practices, maternal and neonatal health outcomes as well as team structures and empowerment among health personnel. Combining these outcomes with a broad set of covariates, evidence can be found on the conditions under which checklists work more effectively.

*with Lennart Kaplan, Jana Kuhnt und Sebastian Vollmer

Talks and Research Visits

Axel Dreher gave a talk on "Aid on Demand: African Leaders and the Geography of China's Foreign Assistance", at the Development Economics Network Berlin (DENEb), November 30.

Axel Dreher took part at a panel discussion: *Entwicklungszusammenarbeit neu denken*, ALDE, Vienna, Austria, November 27.

Hans Diefenbacher gave a lecture on "Welfare Measures Beyond GDP – Theory and practical suggestions, and the international debate", *Ringvorlesung Heterodoxie in der VWL*, Universität Göttingen, November 22.

Andreas Fuchs presented his paper "Competing for Aid Recipients? Donor Responses to Chinese Development Finance" (joint work with Soo Yeon Kim and Austin Strange) at the Annual Conference of the International Political Economy Society, University of Texas, Austin, USA, November 18-19.

Lennart Kaplan presented the paper "Aid and Conflict at the Local Level – Mechanisms and Causality" (with Kai Gehring and Melvin Wong) at the North-Eastern Universities Development Consortium Conference, November 4-5, Tufts University, Boston, USA.

Andreas Fuchs gave the Hamburg Lecture on Law & Economics on the topic "Does Aid Help Refugees Stay? Does Aid Keep Refugees Away?" (joint work with Axel Dreher and Sarah Langlotz) at the University of Hamburg, November 1.

Lennart Kaplan presented the paper "Evaluating the Safe Childbirth Checklist – A Randomized Controlled Trial" (with Jana Kuhnt, Katharina Richert and Sebastian Vollmer) at the Meeting of the German Society of Health Economics (AG Entwicklungszusammenarbeit), October 25, 2017, Bonn, Germany.

New Publications

Held, Benjamin / Rodenhäuser, Dorothee / Diefenbacher, Hans / Zischank, Roland (forthcoming): The National and Regional Welfare Index (NWI/RWI): Redefining Progress in Germany. In: Ecological Economics 145, 391 – 400 [until Jan 15, 2018
URL: <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0921800916309466>]

**Editorial deadline for issue 29/2017 of the newsletter:
Wednesday, December 6, 2017, 12 p.m.
newsletter@awi.uni-heidelberg.de**

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