



NEWSLETTER 2016-24

CALENDAR:

Departmental Seminar

Alexander Danzer (KU Eichstätt)
Pension generosity and mental wellbeing: The effect of eradicating poverty at old-age

Monday, November 21
 16:30–18:00
 VG H26

Lunch Seminar

Simeon Schudy (LMU München)
Incentivizing Creative Problem Solving in Teams - Evidence from a Field Experiment

Wednesday, November 23
 12:00–13:00
 VG 2.35

Economic and Social History Seminar

Thomas Brenner (München)
Ein neuer Ansatz für quantitative Auswertungen der Regensburger Bürgertestamente von 1308 bis 1378

Wednesday, November 23
 18:00–20:15
 PT 1.0.6

ABSTRACTS:

Departmental Seminar

Pension generosity and mental wellbeing: The effect of eradicating poverty at old-age
 (joint work with Natalia Danzer)

Abstract: This paper exploits a unique shift in pension generosity to study the effect of eradicating old-age poverty on mental health. Based on a difference-in-differences set-up we show with two independent data sets from Ukraine that greater pension generosity improves subjective well-being and reduces the incidence of diagnosed depressions. Neither more available leisure time, nor higher consumption levels, nor enhanced physical health can explain the empirical mental health improvement. Instead, we suggest that the main channel for the mental health improvement is the reduced reliance on potentially stressful modes of income generation at old age, such as family household transfers, indebtedness and unpaid bills.

Lunch Seminar

Simeon Schudy

Incentivizing Creative Problem Solving in Teams - Evidence from a Field Experiment

(joint work with Florian Englmaier, Stefan Grimm and David Schindler)

Abstract: Bonus incentives have proven to increase individual performance in classical assembly-line types of jobs, but many modern jobs are vastly different. Modern jobs involve team work, require knowledge recombination and creative problem solving. We study the role of bonuses, framed as gains and losses, in a unique field environment that closely resembles these features; we cooperate with a provider of real life escape games. In our natural field experiment, we find that that bonuses significantly increase team performance but framing the bonus as a loss does not yield additional benefits as compared to the gain frame. To understand how bonus incentives increase performance, we additionally conduct a lab-in-the field experiment, in which student participants have to perform the same task in the same environment. The lab-in-the field experiment qualitatively replicates the findings from the natural field experiment and suggests that bonus incentives also change team organization. With bonus incentives, single team members become more dominant and tend to take more often the initiative. We discuss the implications of our findings for managers and firms designing contract structures in modern working environments.

Economic and Social History Seminar

Thomas Brenner

Ein neuer Ansatz für quantitative Auswertungen der Regensburger Bürgertestamente von 1308 bis 1378

Abstract: Die Bürgertestamente der Reichsstadt Regensburg wurden bereits mehrfach als Regesten und in Editionen bearbeitet. Es steht jedoch noch keine für quantitative Auswertungen geeignete Version zur Verfügung. Deshalb werden die bisherigen Arbeiten vorgestellt und mit Hilfe der Untersuchungen von Manfred Thaller die grundsätzlichen Möglichkeiten erläutert, die die Datenverarbeitung für die Auswertung von Urkunden bietet. Sodann wird festgelegt, welche Daten verwendet und wie die gewonnenen Informationen gespeichert und ausgewertet werden können. Dabei wird versucht, eine erweiterbare, nachhaltig verwendbare Datenbasis auf Basis von Standardprogrammen wie EXCEL und ACCESS zur Verfügung zu stellen. Die Auswertungsergebnisse dieser Arbeit werden mit bereits vorliegenden Analysen der Testamente verglichen und Beispiele für neue Fragestellungen gezeigt.

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