The seminar aims at students of the Master of Science in Economics and the Master in Labour Market and Human Resources. The seminar starts with an introductory meeting and a theory lecture. In the second part of the seminar, students present recent papers on empirical studies on job search and labor market institutions. The objective is to discuss these studies – that often utilize experimental or quasi-experimental designs – and to assess the applied methods and policy consequences. Topics covered in this year's seminar are e.g. the effects of advice about job search, of job search requirements, and of job search assistance. Further topics encompass the effects of labor market policies for the unemployed, of the German minimum wage introduction, and of changes in maternity leave legislation.

Coursework includes a seminar thesis, a 25 minutes presentation of the thesis and class participation in terms of discussing a term paper of a fellow student, initiating the group discussion.

If you are interested in joining the seminar, contact gesine.stephan@iab.de until October 15 the latest and state your name, student ID number and your topics of interest. The next page lists ten potential topics; you can also suggest a different topic. Topics are assigned on a first come, first serve base.

Participants can start working on their papers as soon as topics are assigned.

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Potential topics and starting literature

Panel A: Job search

1. The effects of cheap advice about job search


2. Do higher wages attract more applicants?


3. Job search requirements and sanctions


Hofmann, B. (2015): Do Geographical Mobility Requirements for the Unemployed Affect their Exit Rate to Work? Evidence from a Policy Change, ILR Review 68, 1195–1219

4. The effects of job search assistance


5. Placement strategies of public employment services


Van Landeghem, B., Cövers, F., de Grip, A. (2017): Is There a Rationale to Contact the Unemployed Right from the Start? Evidence from a Natural Field Experiment, Labour Economics 45, 158-168 (see also IZA Discussion Paper 9627)
Panel B: Labor market institutions

6. Comparing different labor market policies for the unemployed


7. The effects of the German minimum wage introduction


8. Robots and employment


9. The gig economy and digital labor platforms


Agrawal, A.K., Lacetera, N., Lyons, E. (2013): Does information help or hinder job applicants from less developed countries in online markets, NBER working paper 18720

10. Changes in maternity leave benefits and female employment decisions


Some instructions

Seminar thesis

- Typical outline (to be modified to your specific topic): Introduction, theoretical considerations, empirical evidence, conclusions and discussion.
- Make clear: Why is the topic important, what are the contributions of the presented studies to the literature, what should be criticized, what are the remaining research gaps?
- Literature: You are expected to search for and to use additional literature.
- Format: About 15 pages (+/- 2 pages) + cover page + references, font type 11-point Times New Roman, line spacing 1 ½, 3 cm margins at the top/bottom/sides, no lists of figures/tables/abbreviations required.
- Citations: In the text (not in footnotes), e.g. Arni (2015), Arni/Schiparowski (2015), Arni et al (2015) for more than three authors.

Important:

- Cite correctly! Always provide the source of your arguments (and do it early, at the beginning of a paragraph, not at the end, if the entire paragraph relates to a specific paper). All direct citations have to be marked by quotation marks.
- Do not write down anything that you found difficult to understand in the original literature. If in doubt, meet with the course instructor and ask about the critical points.

Discussion of the thesis of a fellow student

- Typical outline of presentation: short summary (1 slide), general assessment (1 slide), specific points (was something wrong or missing, could you add further interesting research results to the discussion?)

Some online advice if this should be your first assignment

- Why reliable information is important
  https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NIgdoj58jKc
- Search for scientific information
  https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j5-cLw5EAU8
- Evaluate the quality of information
  https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1UwHgXE9h70
- Cite correctly
  https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4GTt75a3KFI
- Access scientific information for free
  https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JtgCAWFKpJw