

Labor Market Policy Seminar

Job search and labor market institutions

Prof. Dr. Gesine Stephan, Dr. Christine Dauth

Winter term 2019/20

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.

Introductory meeting and lecture:	Friday, 25.10.2019, 13:15 - 18:00, LG 5.152
Seminar presentations:	Friday, 17.1.2020, 13:15 - 18:00, LG 5.152
	Saturday, 18.1.2020, 9:00 - 16:00, LG 5.152
	(dependent on number of presentations)

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.

Please arrange for an early meeting with the course instructor to discuss your suggested outline of the thesis. You have to submit the thesis (of approximately 15 pages) by email until **December 19, 2018**. You will be assigned a fellow student's thesis for discussion until December 20, 2018. Attendance at all seminar presentations is mandatory.

Potential topics and starting literature

Panel A: Job search

1. The effects of cheap advice about job search

Altmann, S., A. Falk, S. Jäger, F. Zimmermann (2018): Learning about Job Search: A Field Experiment with Job Seekers in Germany, [Journal of Public Economics 164, 33-49](#) (see also [IZA Discussion Papers 9040](#))

Belot, M., Kircher, P., Muller, P. (2019): Providing advice to job seekers at low cost: An experimental study on on-line advice, forthcoming in: [Review of Economic Studies](#)

2. Do higher wages attract more applicants?

Banfi, S., Villena-Roldan, B. (2019): Do high-wage jobs attract more applicants? Directed search evidence from the online labor market, forthcoming in: [Journal of Labor Economics](#)

Belot, M., Kircher, P., Muller, P. (2018): How Wage Announcements Affect Job Search Behaviour-A Field Experimental Investigation, [IZA Discussion Paper 11814](#)

3. Job search requirements and sanctions

Boockmann, B., Thomsen, S. L., & Walter, T. (2014): Intensifying the use of benefit sanctions: an effective tool to increase employment? [IZA Journal of Labor Policy 3, 1-19](#).

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

Cottier, L., Fluckiger, Y., Kempeneers, P., Lalive, R. (2018): Does Job Search Assistance Really Raise Employment?, [IZA Discussion Paper 11766](#)

Manoli, D. S., Michaelides, M., Patel, A. (2018): Long-term effects of job-search assistance: Experimental evidence using administrative tax data, [NBER Working Paper 24422](#)

5. Placement strategies of public employment services

Engström, P., Hesselius, P., Holmlund, B. (2012): Vacancy referrals, job search, and the duration of unemployment: a randomized experiment, [Labour 26, 419-435](#) (see also [IZA Discussion Paper 3991](#))

Van Landeghem, B., Cörvers, 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

Liechti, F., Fossati, F., Bonoli, G., Auer, D. (2017): The signalling value of labor market programs, [European Sociological Review 33, 257-274](#)

Card, D., Kluve, J., Weber, A. (2018): What Works? A Meta Analysis of Recent Active Labor Market Program Evaluations, [Journal of the European Economic Association 16, 894-931](#) (see also [IZA Discussion Paper 9236](#))

7. The effects of the German minimum wage introduction

Caliendo, M., Schröder, C., Wittbrodt, L. (2019): The Causal Effects of the Minimum Wage Introduction in Germany – An Overview, forthcoming in: German Economic Review (s. auch [IZA Discussion Paper 12043](#))

Caliendo, M., Fedorets, A., Preuß, M., Schröder, C., Wittbrodt, L. (2017): The Short-Term Distributional Effects of the German Minimum Wage Reform, [IZA Discussion Paper 11246](#)

8. Robots and employment

Graetz, G., Michaels, G. (2018): Robots at Work, [The Review of Economics and Statistics 100, 753-768](#) (see also [IZA Discussion Paper 8938](#))

Acemoglu, D., Restrepo, P. (2018): Robots and Jobs: Evidence from US Labor Markets, [Working Paper](#)

9. The gig economy and digital labor platforms

Graham, M., Hjorth, I., Lehdonvirta, V. (2017): Digital labour and development: impacts of global digital labour platforms and the gig economy on worker livelihoods, [Transfer: European Review of Labour and Research 23, 135-162](#)

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

Kluve, J., Schmitz, S. (2019): Back to Work: Parental Benefits and Mothers' Labor Market Outcomes in the Medium Run, [ILR Review 71, 143-173](#) (see also [Discussion Paper](#))

Schönberg, U., Ludsteck, J. (2014): Expansion in Maternity Leave Coverage and Mothers' Labor Market Outcomes after Childbirth, [Journal of Labor Economics 32\(3\), 469-505](#)

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=Nlqdoj58jKc>
- 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>