



## **BGPE Mini-Workshop**

Thursday June 22, 2017

Friedrich-Alexander University Erlangen-Nürnberg  
Lange Gasse 20, 90403 Nürnberg  
Room 4.109

14.30-15.30 Hendrik Schmitz, University of Paderborn (Germany)

### **Heterogeneity in Marginal Returns to Higher Education**

15.30-16.30 Anna Adamecz-Völgyi, National Bank of Hungary (Hungary)

### **The effects of increased compulsory school leaving age on the teenage fertility of Roma women, a disadvantaged ethnic minority**

16.30-17.00 Coffee Break

17.00-18.00 Deborah Cobb-Clark, University of Sydney (Australia)

### **Mental Health and Productivity at Work: Does What You Do Matter?**

18.00-18.30 Walk to the Biergarten

18.30- Discussion at the Biergarten

For reservations please let us know **by June 16**, if you attend the workshop and / or Biergarten discussion. Please email [felicitas.koetzsch@fau.de](mailto:felicitas.koetzsch@fau.de) .

Hendrik Schmitz

### **Heterogeneity in Marginal Returns to Higher Education**

In this paper, we estimate the effects of college education on cognitive abilities, health, and wages, exploiting exogenous variation in college availability. By means of semiparametric local instrumental variables techniques we estimate marginal treatment effects in an environment of essential heterogeneity. The results suggest positive average effects on cognitive abilities, wages, and physical health. Yet, there is heterogeneity in the effects which points towards selection into gains. While the majority of individuals benefits from more education, the average causal effect for individuals with the lowest unobserved desire to study is zero for all outcomes. Mental health effects, however, are absent for the entire population.

Anna Adamecz-Völgyi, joint with Flóra Samu and Agota Scharle

### **The effects of increased compulsory school leaving age on the teenage fertility of Roma women, a disadvantaged ethnic minority**

This paper examines the effects that an increase in compulsory school-leaving (CSL) age has on the teenage fertility of Roma women, a disadvantaged ethnic minority in Hungary. We use a regression discontinuity design identification strategy based on exact date of birth. Increasing the CSL age from age 16 to 18 decreased the probability of teenage motherhood among Roma women by 6.8 percentage points. This effect is temporary as higher CSL age only delayed first birth-giving by two years. We exploit a unique database that covers live births, miscarriages, abortions, and still births, and contains information on the time of conception by weekly precision. We propose that the impact of the legislation change can be explained by the incapacitation effect of education, which keeps women physically in school: the higher CSL age decreases the probability of getting pregnant during the school year but not during summer and Christmas breaks.

Deborah Cobb-Clark

### **Mental Health and Productivity at Work: Does What You Do Matter?**

Much of the economic cost of mental illness stems from workers' reduced productivity. Using nationally representative panel data we analyze the links between mental health and two alternative workplace productivity measures – absenteeism and presenteeism (i.e., lower productivity while attending work) – explicitly allowing these relationships to be moderated by the nature of the job itself. We find that absence rates are approximately five percent higher among workers who report being in poor mental health. Moreover, job conditions are related to both presenteeism and absenteeism even after accounting for workers' self-reported mental health status. Job conditions are relatively more important in understanding diminished productivity at work if workers are in good rather than poor mental health. The effects of job complexity and stress on absenteeism do not depend on workers' mental health, while job security and control moderate the effect of mental illness on absence days.