



Programme



IAAEU

Institute for Labour Law
and Industrial Relations
in the European Union

Workshop on COVID-19 and Labour Markets

Institute for Labour Law and Industrial Relations in the European Union | Trier University

Workshop on COVID-19 and Labour Markets

7th May, 2021

Institute for Labour Law and Industrial Relations in
the European Union (IAAEU)
Trier University, Campus II
Behringstraße 21
54296 Trier

Welcome to the Institute for Labour Law and Industrial Relations in the European Union

The Institute for Labour Law and Industrial Relations in the European Union (IAAEU) was established as a public foundation in 1983 and is funded by the state government of Rhineland-Palatinate. While being a public foundation, the IAAEU is also a research institute of Trier University and is situated in the heart of the Petrisberg Technology Park on Campus II. The IAAEU comprises two working groups of which one engages in research in the area of European labour law (Legal Team) and one engages in the theoretical and empirical analysis of personnel and labour economic issues (Economics Team). Depending on the research questions and the available data the economists rely on experimental data drawn from the experiments conducted in the institute's laboratory or on survey and corporate data. Since January 2012 Laszlo Goerke is one of the directors of the IAAEU and head of the Chair of Personnel Economics at Trier University. He is also a research fellow of the Institute of Labor Economics (IZA) and the CESifo Group Munich.

For detailed information have a look at our website: <https://www.iaaeu.de/en>

About TriECON

TriECON is a workshop series initiated and conceptualized by the Institute for Labour Law and Industrial Relations in the European Union (IAAEU) in cooperation with the Chair of Personnel Economics at Trier University. Each workshop is designed to offer a platform for scientific exchange on a particular topic. The workshop series supports the networking among scientists and promotes the exchange of research ideas and results with other scientists as well as with the wider, interested public.

We hope you have a pleasant event and that you will you get some new insights!

For information about the upcoming workshops, we invite you to visit the corresponding website:

[Institute for Labour Law and Industrial Relations in the European Union - Workshop Series](#)

Registration

To register for the workshop, please use the following form:

<https://forms.gle/xdwiDZeK9ZKxSK146>

You will receive a confirmation email once your registration is noted.

The workshop will take place online via Zoom software. Information on how to log in will be sent around one day before the workshop.

Please refer to page 9 for more organizational information.

Schedule – Workshop on COVID-19 and Labour Markets

Friday, May 7th 2021

09:15 – 09:30	Welcome and Opening
09:30 – 10:50	Session I
10:50 – 11:20	General Discussion + Short Break
11:20 – 12:40	Session II
12:40 – 14:00	General Discussion + Lunch Break
14:00 – 15:20	Session III
15:20 – 15:50	General Discussion + Short Break
15:50 – 17:10	Session IV
17:10 – 17:30	General Discussion + Farewell

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09:15 – 09:30 **Welcome and Opening**

09:30 – 10:50 **SESSION I: (SESSION CHAIR: LASZLO GOERKE)**

Marta Golin: “Work that can be done from home: Evidence on variation within and across occupations and industries”

(Co-authored by Abi Adams-Prassl, Teodora Boneva & Christopher Rauth)

Yue Huang: “Home sweet home: Working from home and employee performance during the COVID-19 pandemic in the UK”

(Co-authored by Sumit Deole & Max Deter)

10:50 – 11:20 **General Discussion + Short Break**

11:20 – 12:40 **SESSION II: (SESSION CHAIR: ALBERTO PALERMO)**

Alper Ünsal: “COVID-19 incidence, mental health and the economy in a compartmental model with contact matrices and endogenous labor supply”

(Co-authored by Bertrand Verheyden)

Jürgen Wiemers: “Distributional effects of macroeconomic shocks in real-time: A novel method applied to the COVID-19 crisis in Germany

(Co-authored by Kerstin Bruckmeier, Andreas Peichl, Martin Popp & Timo Wollmershäuser)

12:40 – 14:00 **General Discussion + Lunch Break**

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14:00 – 15:20

SESSION III: *(SESSION CHAIR: SVEN HARTMANN)*

Ludivine Martin: “Digitally transformed work from home impacts on job satisfaction, job stress and job productivity. COVID-19 findings”

(Co-authored by Chantal Cucchi Fuhrer & Laetitia Hauret)

Diane Pelly: “Worker well-being before and during the COVID-19 restrictions: A longitudinal study in the UK”

(Co-authored by Michael Daly, Liam Delaney & Orla Doyle)

15:20 – 15:50

General Discussion + Short Break

15:50 – 17:10

SESSION IV: *(SESSION CHAIR: YUE HUANG)*

Alexander S. Kritikos: “Covid-19: a crisis of the female self-employed”

(Co-authored by Daniel Graeber & Johannes Seebauer)

Ingo Isphording: “Does re-opening schools contribute to the spread of SARS-CoV-2? Evidence from staggered summer breaks in Germany”

(Co-authored by Marc Lipfert & Nico Pestel)

17:10 – 17:30

General Discussion + Farewell

Organizational Information

Instructions for Presenters:

We scheduled 40 minutes for each paper:

- 30 minutes for your presentation and 10 minutes for questions.

The workshop will take place online via Zoom Software.

In case of unforeseen technical problems, our IT team is available during the workshop:

Email: edv@iaaeu.de

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Abstracts

Session I:

Marta Golin, Abi Adams-Prassl, Teodora Boneva, Christopher Rauth: *“Work that can be done from home: Evidence on variation within and across occupations and industries”*

Using large, geographically representative surveys from the US and UK, we document variation in the percentage of tasks workers can do from home. We highlight three dimensions of heterogeneity that have previously been neglected. First, the share of tasks that can be done from home varies considerably both across as well as within occupations and industries. The distribution of the share of tasks that can be done from home within occupations, industries, and occupation-industry pairs is systematic and remarkably consistent across countries and survey waves. Second, as the pandemic has progressed, the share of workers who can do all tasks from home has increased most in those occupations in which the pre-existing share was already high. Third, even within occupations and industries, we find that women can do fewer tasks from home. Using machine-learning methods, we extend our working-from-home measure to all disaggregated occupation-industry pairs. The measure we present in this paper is a critical input for models considering the possibility to work from home, including models used to assess the impact of the pandemic or design policies targeted at reopening the economy.

Yue Huang, Sumit Deole, Max Deter *“Home sweet home: Working from home and employee performance during the COVID-19 pandemic in the UK”*

In 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic forced governments in many countries to ask employees to work from home (WFH) where possible. Using representative data from the UK, we show that increases in WFH frequency are associated with a higher self-perceived productivity per hour and an increase in weekly working hours among the employed. The WFH-productivity relationship is stronger for employees residing in regions worse affected by the pandemic and those who previously commuted longer distances, while it is weaker for mothers with childcare responsibilities. Also, we find that employees with higher autonomy over job tasks and work hours and those with childcare responsibilities worked longer hours when working from home. With prospects that WFH possibility may remain permanently open for some employees, we discuss our results' labor market policy implications.

Abstracts

Session II:

Alper Ünsal, Bertrand Verheyden: *“COVID-19 incidence, mental health and the economy in a compartmental model with contact matrices and endogenous labor supply”*

We evaluate the impact of non-pharmaceutical interventions (NPI's) against the COVID-19 pandemic on labor supply, disease evolution and life satisfaction in a post-lockdown economy. We develop an epidemiological-macroeconomic model in an environment with heterogeneities in labor force functioning, disease characteristics across age groups, daily numbers of social contacts at different locations. Using Belgian health, demographic and social contact data; we run simulations using combinations of NPI's (workplace closures, school closures and limitations on contacts at public spaces) differing in intensity and timing. Our simulations yield that NPI's intermittently lifted and re-imposed at low rates of critical care bed occupancy can provide a good balance among losses in health, labor supply and life satisfaction.

Jürgen Wiemers, Kerstin Bruckmeier, Andreas Peichl, Martin Popp, Timo Wollmershäuser: *“Distributional effects of macroeconomic shocks in real-time: A novel method applied to the COVID-19 crisis in Germany”*

The highly dynamic nature of the COVID-19 crisis poses an unprecedented challenge to policy makers around the world to take appropriate income-stabilizing countermeasures. To properly design such policy measures, it is important to quantify their effects in realtime. However, data on the relevant outcomes at the micro level is usually only available with considerable time lags. In this paper, we propose a novel method to assess the distributional consequences of macroeconomic shocks and policy responses in real-time and provide the first application to Germany in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic. Specifically, our approach combines different economic models estimated on firm- and household-level data: a VAR-model for output expectations, a structural labor demand model, and a tax-benefit microsimulation model. Our findings show that as of September 2020 the COVID-19 shock translates into a noticeable reduction in gross labor income across the entire income distribution. However, the tax benefit system and discretionary policy responses to the crisis act as important income stabilizers, since the effect on the distribution of disposable household incomes turns progressive: the bottom two deciles actually gain income, the middle deciles are hardly affected, and only the upper deciles lose income.

Abstracts

Session III:

Ludivine Martin, Chantal Cucchi Fuhrer, Laetitia Hauret: *“Digitally transformed work from home impacts on job satisfaction, job stress and job productivity. COVID-19 findings”*

In these times of successive lockdowns due to the health crisis induced by COVID-19, we wanted to understand the impacts of a digitally transformed work from home on the evolution of employees' subjective well-being (job satisfaction, job stress) and job productivity between before and during the first lockdown of spring 2020. Using a sample of 438 employees working for firms located in Luxembourg, our analysis enabled us, first, to highlight a growing of digital tools uses identified in different profiles and, second, examine the relationships between these different profiles and the evolution of job satisfaction, job stress and job productivity. Our main results show that the most satisfied and the less stressed profile of teleworkers is the one that daily use web conference that appears so to compensate for the absence of face-to-face interactions. However, this specific use is not enough to generate a job productivity. The profile that generate an increased job productivity is the one with a combined mastered daily or weekly use of all of the four collaborative and communication digital tools. On the contrary, a daily use of the four studied collaborative and communication digital tools both before and during the lockdown seems to generate too much information to deal with and the teleworkers may be subject to infobesity that reduce their job satisfaction. Our results have theoretical and managerial implications for the future of the digitally work from home.

Diane Pelly, Michael Daly, Liam Delaney, Orla Doyle: *“Worker well-being before and during the COVID-19 restrictions: A longitudinal study in the UK”*

The potential impact of COVID-19 restrictions on worker well-being is currently unknown. In this study we examine 15 well-being outcomes collected from 621 full-time workers assessed before (November, 2019 - February, 2020) and during (May-June, 2020) the COVID-19 pandemic. Fixed effects analyses are used to investigate how the COVID-19 restrictions and involuntary homeworking affect well-being and job performance. The majority of worker well-being measures are not adversely affected. Homeworkers feel more engaged and autonomous, experience fewer negative emotions and feel more connected to their organisations. However, these improvements come at the expense of reduced homelife satisfaction and job performance.

Abstracts

Session IV:

Alexander S. Kritikos, Daniel Graeber, Johannes Seebauer: *“COVID-19: a crisis of the female self-employed”*

We investigate how the economic consequences of the pandemic, and of the government-mandated measures to contain its spread, affected the self-employed relative to employed individuals in Germany and, secondly, to what extent the female self-employed were more strongly hit than their male counterparts. For our analysis, we use representative real-time survey data in which respondents were asked about their situation during the COVID-19 pandemic. Our findings indicate that self-employed individuals were much more likely to suffer income losses than employees. Among the self-employed, women were 35% more likely to experience income losses than men, as women are disproportionately working in industries that are more severely affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. We conclude that future policy measures intended to mitigate such shocks should account for this variation in economic hardship.

Ingo Isphording, Marc Lipfert, Nico Pestel: *“Does re-opening schools contribute to the spread of SARS-CoV-2? Evidence from staggered summer breaks in Germany”*

This paper studies the effect of the end of school summer breaks on SARS-CoV-2 cases in Germany. The staggered timing of summer breaks across federal states allows us to implement an event study design. We base our analysis on official daily counts of confirmed coronavirus infections by age groups across all 401 German counties. We consider an event window of two weeks before and four weeks after the end of summer breaks. We do not find evidence of a positive effect of school re-openings on case numbers. For individuals aged between 5-59 years, which comprise school-aged children and their parents, our preferred specification indicates that the end of summer breaks had a negative but insignificant effect on the number of new confirmed cases. Our results are not explained by changes in mobility patterns around school re-openings arising from travel returnees. Analyses of Google Trends data suggest that behavioral changes of parents may have contributed to contain larger outbreaks after school re-openings. We conclude that school re-openings in Germany under strict hygiene measures combined with quarantine and containment measures have not increased the number of newly confirmed SARS-CoV-2 infections.

Participants

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