Tim Ruberg

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Fields of Interest

Applied Microeconomics, Economics of Education, Health Economics, Labor Economics, Public Economics

Education

2019 – 2025 Ph.D. in Economics, University of Hohenheim

2016 – 2019 M.Sc., University of Hohenheim, Economics

Thesis title: Who Benefits from a STEM-Education? Estimating Marginal Treatment Effects for Switzerland

Awarded as best Master's Thesis, Studienpreis des Universitätsbundes Hohenheim e.V.

2017 – 2018 Short-Term Exchange Program, Saitama University

B.Sc., University of Hohenheim, Economics and Business Administration Thesis title: *Determinants of College Major Choice – An Analysis at Universities*

Research Stays

03/2024 Visiting Scholar, Australian National University (invited by Robert Breunig)

o2 − o3/2024 **Visiting Scholar**, The University of Sydney (invited by Gregor Pfeifer)

12/2022 Visiting Scholar, The University of Tokyo (invited by Shintaro Yamaguchi)

05 – 09/2022 **Visiting Scholar**, Keio University (invited by Hideo Akabayashi)

05 – 09/2019 Visiting Scholar, Keio University (invited by Hideo Akabayashi)

Job Market Paper

Unveiling the Unseen Illness: Public Health Warnings and Heat Stroke (with Lester Lusher)
THE Workshop Best Paper Award

Current version [here] | Keio-IES DP2024-020 [here] | IZA DP No. 16562 [here]

Previously "Killer Alerts? Public Health Warnings and Heat Stroke in Japan"

Abstract: We investigate the behavioral and health responses to the first comprehensive heathealth warning system in Japan, where alerts were issued in a region when the forecasted wet bulb globe temperature (WBGT) exceeded $33^{\circ}C$. For identification, we utilize plausibly exogenous region-day variation in the difference between actual and forecasted WBGT (i.e. forecasting errors), paired with data from Google Trends, Google Mobility Reports, ambulance records, energy consumption behavior, and our own survey. We find that the alerts led to a large and precisely estimated *increase* in heat stroke counts of 17%. Our evidence suggests that the effect is driven by increased reporting of otherwise unidentified cases. We rule out other potential mechanisms, such as "adverse" behavior and substitution in health diagnoses away from other sudden illnesses related to heat stroke. Therefore, our results highlight that the health consequences from extreme heat are potentially underestimated. We further find that four times as many heat strokes are detected in low-income neighborhoods compared to high-income neighborhoods, highlighting severe environmental inequalities in health reporting behavior.

Peer-Reviewed Publications

Education-Oriented and Care-Oriented Preschools: Implications on Child Development (2023) (with Hideo Akabayashi, Chizuru Shikishima, and Jun Yamashita)

Labour Economics, 84, 102410 [here]

Abstract: This paper estimates the causal effect of education-oriented vs. care-oriented preschools on child development. We use a unique quasi-experiment from Japan that exploits plausibly exogenous regional and temporal variation in the relative availability of different preschools. We find that attendance at an education-oriented preschool is associated with significant improvements in mathematical and linguistic achievement that manifest later in adolescence. Positive effects can also be found for socioemotional measures. Ascending marginal treatment effect (MTE) curves suggest an inverse selection pattern: children that are least likely to enroll in the education-oriented preschool gain the most from it. This heterogeneity is mainly due to specific features of education-oriented preschools (i.e., educational orientation, the interaction with parents due to shorter operating hours, and peer effects), while gains from enrollment in care-oriented preschools appear more homogeneous.

Working Papers

Heterogeneity in Long-Term Returns to Education: An Inconvenient Truth (with Philipp Kugler and Anne Zühlke)

IAW Discussion Paper No. 141 [here]

Abstract: This paper studies the long-term relationship between parental and child education in Germany, where children are tracked into academic and non-academic track schools at the age of 10. On average, children are more likely to attend an academic track school if their parents attended one. Estimating marginal treatment effect curves, we find that there is no effect for disadvantaged individuals, suggesting that educational policies attempting to improve the educational prospect of disadvantaged individuals may fail to reduce inequalities in the long run. Low labor market returns despite better education is the main explanation for the null effect for these individuals.

Work in Progress

- Moral Education and Child Development: A Randomized Controlled Trial in Japan (with Hideo Akabayashi, Kenju Kamei, and Mirka Zvedelikova)

 AEA RCT Registry [here]
- STEM-Education and Early Labor Market Outcomes (with Thomas Cornelissen, Aderonke Osikominu, and Gregor Pfeifer)
- Infrastructure and Business Taxes (with Daniel Heuermann and Gregor Pfeifer)
- Characterizing Returns to STEM: Evidence on Marginal and Policy-Relevant Treatment Effects (with Aderonke Osikominu and Gregor Pfeifer)
- Fiscal Stimulus and Consumption Spending: Evidence from a €5 Billion Experiment (with Gregor Pfeifer, Davud Rostam-Afschar, and Lukas Treber)

Presentations

AASLE 2024 Conference (upcoming) – Institute for Fiscal Studies (invited) – Otto von Guericke University Magdeburg (invited) – EALE 2024 Conference – THE Workshop 2024 – IAAEU Workshop on Labor Economics – Australian National University – The University of Sydney

AASLE 2023 Conference – EALE 2023 Conference – IAAE 2023 Annual Conference – 14th Interdisciplinary Ph.D. Workshop "Perspectives on (Un-)Employment," IAB

AASLE 2022 Conference – 7th International NEPS Conference – NGE Autumn Workshop, University of Hohenheim – Keio University

HERMES Workshop, University of Pavia – Annual Conference of the Verein für Socialpolitik – Ninth ECINEQ Meeting – Asian Meeting of the Econometric Society – IAAE 2021 Annual Conference – SSES Annual Congress 2021

2020 | 5th International NEPS Conference

Presentations (continued)

2019 THE Workshop 2019 – Keio University

Teaching Experience

Introductory Econometrics, Topics in Microeconometrics, Statistics, Tools in Empirical Research in Economics and Business Administration, Introduction to Stata, Effective Computing in Economics

Miscellaneous Experience

Conference and Workshop Organization

2023 **Ist NGE Spring Workshop 2023**, University of Hohenheim

2022 **Ist NGE Autumn Workshop 2022**, University of Hohenheim

Awards and Achievements

Best Paper Award, THE Workshop 2024

2020 Award for the Best Master Thesis, Studienpreis des Universitätsbundes Hohenheim e.V.

2019 **Scholarship**, Promos-Stipendium des Deutschen Akademischen Austauschdiensts (DAAD)

2018 **Scholarship**, Deutschlandstipendium

2017 Scholarship, Baden-Württemberg STIPENDIUM

Refereeing

Economic Inquiry

Student Assistant Positions

2015 – 2019 Chair of Econometrics and Empirical Economics, University of Hohenheim

2014 – 2016 | Institute of Applied Mathematics and Statistics, University of Hohenheim

Skills

Languages English, German, Japanese (JLPT N2)

Software MS Office, Stata, LTEX, ArcGIS, R, ...

References

Aderonke Osikominu

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Robert Breunig

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Shintaro Yamaguchi

The University of Tokyo syamaguchi@e.u-tokyo.ac.jp

Lester Lusher

University of Pittsburgh lesterlusher@pitt.edu