

BLOCK SEMINAR: TOPICS IN HEALTH ECONOMICS SUMMER 2021

Organizational Meeting
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Prof. Achim Wambach, Ph.D.
Dr. Simon Reif



HEALTH CARE THROUGH LENS OF ECONOMICS

The current situation

Covid-19 has made it every more clear that health care resources are scarce. Allocating scarce resources in good and bad times is what economists study!

Analyzing the health care sector is important for several reasons

- **Size:** Health care sector accounts for about 10% of GDP in OECD countries
- **Social relevance:** Access to health care affects citizens' everyday life
- **Special market:** Marginal costs of consumption low due to health insurance schemes – high level of regulation

THIS SEMINAR

- The purpose of this seminar is to let students present research papers on economics of health care provision, get familiar with the state of art in the field and inspire their own research in this area.
- List of covered topics:
 - *Health insurance policies*
 - *Provider behavior*
 - *Patient behavior*
 - *Health inequalities*
 - *Competition in healthcare*
 - *Innovation in healthcare*

WHAT DO YOU NEED TO DO?

Each student

- Writes a seminar paper (10 to 15 pages)
- Presents their paper in the block seminar (20 min)
- Grade composition:
 - Seminar paper (50%)
 - Presentation (30%)
 - Report of the presentation (10%): see later for details
 - Participation in the general discussion (10%)

TIMELINE

- You can find this presentation and the list of papers here:
https://simonreif.github.io/healthecon_ma/
- Send suggestions of your **three** most favored papers (by indicating your preference ranking) from the list until Monday, ***1st of March to simon.reif@zew.de***. We will allocate you a paper by Friday, ***5th of March***.
- The block seminar will take place on ***Friday, May 21st*** via Zoom.
- Please submit your paper within ***Friday, May 14th (6:00pm at last) to simon.reif@zew.de***.
- You must also include a one-page report of the feedback that you may get during the presentation of your paper within ***Friday, May 28th (6:00pm at last) to simon.reif@zew.de***

HOW SHOULD YOUR PAPER BE STRUCTURED?

- Motivation + State of Research 25 %
- Theoretical/Empirical Framework 25 %
- Results 15 %
- Discussion + Conclusion 35 %

(1) HINTS: MOTIVATION AND STATE OF RESEARCH

- Introduce the topic.
- What is the research question?
- What is the objective of the paper?
- Why should we care about this?
- Why is it important?
- What is the real world motivation?
- What does the previous literature say?
- What is the paper's contribution?

(2) HINTS: EMPIRICAL FRAMEWORK

- Is the paper based upon a theoretical foundation? How?
- What is the methodological challenge that needs to be overcome?
- What is the identification strategy?
- What is the data?
- What is the unit of observation?

(3) HINTS: RESULTS

- Clearly present the most important results of the paper
- What is the underlining mechanism driving these results?
- Are there robustness checks? If so, what kind of?
- What is so interesting about the results?
- Does the result show something
 - Counter-intuitive
 - What current theory ignores or fails to explain
 - Or completely novel
- What is the policy implication?

(4) HINTS: DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

- Discuss the model, methods applied and results obtained
- Are there problems with the model/method?
- What alternative interpretations of the results are plausible?
- Are there important factors left out? If so, what can you say about the likely effect?
- What are the most serious shortcomings? What approaches might be taken to address these?
- What are potential extensions?
- Which other research questions could be analyzed following the analysis of the paper?
- Conclude

COMMENTS FOR THE PRESENTATION

- 20 minutes are the usual amount of time you have for a presentation at many conferences in economics BUT 20 minutes is not long.

→ Structure your presentation very well along the structure of the paper BUT include only the most important aspects.

- No detailed level of analysis as required for the paper is neither asked for nor time for in the presentation.
- Do not put too much information on each slide. Your slides should be well readable but like the overall presentation should not contain too much details or very long sentences if sentences at all.

WHO TO CONTACT IN CASE OF QUESTIONS?

- Please send your questions to: simon.reif@zew.de
- Individual meetings can be arranged by e-mail.
- Questions will be answered until the day before the block seminar (i.e. May 20th).