

Labor Market Policy Seminar

Job search and employment

Prof. Dr. Gesine Stephan

Winter term 2023/24

The seminar is aimed at students of the Master in Economics and the Master in Labor Market and Human Resources (Arbeitsmarkt und Personal). For the seminar, students write a paper focusing on one or two recent empirical studies related to job search and employment. The aim is to present these studies - which often use experimental or quasi-experimental designs – in the context of the broader literature and to critically discuss the methods and policy implications used. Students may also suggest other topics or conduct their own empirical analysis.

Course work includes a seminar paper, a 25-minute presentation of the paper, and class participation in the form of a discussion of a fellow student's paper that introduces the group discussion.

Introductory meeting:	Friday, 27.10.2023, 13:00 - 16:00, LG 3.125
Seminar presentations:	Friday, 19.1.2024, 13:00 - 18:00, LG 5.152 Saturday, 20.1.2024, 9:00 - 16:00, LG 5.152

If you are interested in participating in the seminar, please contact gesine.stephan@iab.de no later than **October 20** and include your name, matriculation number, and topic preferences. Ten possible topics are listed on the next page; you may also suggest another topic or your own empirical analysis. Topics will be assigned on a first-come, first-served basis. Participants can begin their work as soon as they have reserved a topic.

Please make an early appointment with the course instructor to discuss your proposed outline of the paper. You must submit the paper (approximately 15 pages) via email by **December 21, 2023**. You will be assigned a fellow student's paper for discussion by December 22, 2023. Attendance at all seminar presentations is mandatory.

Potential topics and starting literature

1. Worker's beliefs about outside options and returns to job search

Jäger, S., Roth, C., Roussille, N., & Schoefer, B. (2022). Worker beliefs about outside options, IZA Discussion Paper 14963, <https://www.iza.org/publications/dp/14963/worker-beliefs-about-outside-options>

Adams-Prassl, A., Boneva, T., Golin, M., & Rauh, C. (2023). Perceived Returns to Job Search, Labour Economics 80, 1-34, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.labeco.2022.102307>

2. Profiling the unemployed

Allhutter, D., Cech, F., Fischer, F., Grill, G., & Mager, A. (2020). Algorithmic profiling of job seekers in Austria: how austerity politics are made effective, Frontiers in Big Data 3, <https://www.frontiersin.org/articles/10.3389/fdata.2020.00005/full>

Kern, C., Bach, R. L., Mautner, H., & Kreuter, F. (2021). Fairness in algorithmic profiling: A German case study, arXiv preprint arXiv:2108.04134, <https://arxiv.org/pdf/2108.04134.pdf>

3. Job creation schemes for the unemployed

Kasy, M., & Lehner, L. (2023). Employing the unemployed of Marienthal: Evaluation of a guaranteed job program, CESifo Working Paper 10394, <https://www.cesifo.org/en/publications/2023/working-paper/employing-unemployed-marienthal-evaluation-guaranteed-job-program>

Ivanov, B., Pfeiffer, F., & Pohlen, L. (2020). Do job creation schemes improve the social integration and well-being of the long-term unemployed?, Labour Economics 64, <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0927537120300415>

4. Online-advice for the unemployed

Altmann, S., Glenny, A., Mahlstedt, R., & Sebald, A. (2022). The direct and indirect effects of online job search advice, IZA Discussion Paper 15830, <https://www.iza.org/publications/dp/15830/the-direct-and-indirect-effects-of-online-job-search-advice>

Belot, M., Kircher, P., & Muller, P. (2022). Do the long-term unemployed benefit from automated occupational advice during online job search?, IZA Discussion Paper 15452, <https://www.iza.org/publications/dp/15452/do-the-long-term-unemployed-benefit-from-automated-occupational-advice-during-online-job-search>

5. Understanding the welfare and unemployment benefit system

Cairo, S., & Mahlstedt, R. (2021). Transparency of the Welfare System and Labor Market Outcomes of Unemployed Workers, IZA Discussion Paper 14940, <https://www.iza.org/publications/dp/14940/transparency-of-the-welfare-system-and-labor-market-outcomes-of-unemployed-workers>

Altmann, S., Cairo, S., Mahlstedt, R., & Sebald, A. (2022). Do Job Seekers Understand the UI Benefit System (And Does It Matter)?, IZA Discussion Paper 15747, <https://www.iza.org/publications/dp/15747/do-job-seekers-understand-the-ui-benefit-system-and-does-it-matter>

6. Unemployment and caseworkers

Schiprowski, A. (2020). The role of caseworkers in unemployment insurance: Evidence from unplanned absences. *Journal of Labor Economics* 38, 1189-1225, <https://www.journals.uchicago.edu/doi/epdf/10.1086/706092>

Böheim, R., Eppel, R., & Mahringer, H. (2022). More caseworkers shorten unemployment durations and save costs: Results from a field experiment in an Austrian public employment office, WIFO Working Papers 647, <https://www.econstor.eu/bitstream/10419/261481/1/1810691494.pdf>

7. Recommendations in online labor markets

Horton, J. J. (2017). The effects of algorithmic labor market recommendations: Evidence from a field experiment. *Journal of Labor Economics* 35, 345-385, <https://www.journals.uchicago.edu/doi/abs/10.1086/689213>

Pallais, A., & Sands, E. G. (2016). Why the referential treatment? Evidence from field experiments on referrals, *Journal of Political Economy* 124, 1793-1828, <https://www.journals.uchicago.edu/doi/abs/10.1086/688850>

8. Worker representation in boards

Jäger, S., Schoefer, B., & Heining, J. (2021). Labor in the Boardroom, *The Quarterly Journal of Economics* 136, 669-725, <https://academic.oup.com/qje/article/136/2/669/5944124>

Harju, J., Jäger, S., & Schoefer, B. (2021). Voice at work, IZA Discussion Paper 14163, <https://www.iza.org/publications/dp/14163/voice-at-work>

9. Early child care and labor supply of mothers

Hermes, H., Krauß, M., Lergetporer, P., Peter, F., & Wiederhold, S. (2022). Early child care and labor supply of lower-SES mothers: A randomized controlled trial, IZA Discussion Paper 15814, <https://www.iza.org/publications/dp/15814/early-child-care-and-labor-supply-of-lower-ses-mothers-a-randomized-controlled-trial>

Müller, K. U., & Wrohlich, K. (2020). Does subsidized care for toddlers increase maternal labor supply? Evidence from a large-scale expansion of early childcare, *Labour Economics*, 62, 101776, <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S0927537119301125>

10. Discrimination in access to childcare

Hermes, H., Lergetporer, P., Peter, F., Mierisch, F., & Wiederhold, S. (2023, May). Males Should Mail? Gender Discrimination in Access to Childcare, *AEA Papers and Proceedings* 113, 427-431, <https://www.aeaweb.org/articles?id=10.1257/pandp.20231060>

Hermes, H., Lergetporer, P., Mierisch, F., Peter, F., & Wiederhold, S. (2023). Discrimination on the child care market: A nationwide field experiment, IZA Discussion Paper 16082, <https://www.iza.org/publications/dp/16082/discrimination-on-the-child-care-market-a-nation-wide-field-experiment>

Some instructions

Term paper

- Typical outline (to be adapted to your specific topic): Introduction, theoretical considerations, empirical evidence, conclusions, and discussion.
- Clarify: Why is the topic important/interesting, what are the contributions of the presented studies to the literature, what needs to be criticized, where are there still research gaps?
- Literature: You are expected to research and utilize additional literature.
- Format: Approximately 15 pages (+/-2 pages) + cover page + references, 11-point Times New Roman font, 1 ½ line spacing, 3 cm margins top/bottom/side, no list of figures/tables/abbreviations required.
- Citations: In text (not in footnotes), e.g. Arni (2015), Arni and Schiprowski (2015), Arni et al. (2015) if more than three authors....

Important

- Cite correctly! Always cite the source of your arguments (and at the beginning of a paragraph, not at the end if the entire paragraph refers to a specific paper). All direct quotations must be indicated by quotation marks.
- Do not write down anything you did not understand in the original literature. When in doubt, talk to the instructor and ask about the critical points.

Discussion of a fellow student's thesis paper

- Aims to provide a starting point for discussion of a thesis paper; typically done in the form of a short slide presentation
- Typical outline: Brief summary (1 slide), general assessment (1 slide), specific points (was something wrong or missing, could you add more interesting research to the discussion?)

Some online tips if this is your first term paper:

- Why reliable information is important <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NIgdoj58jKc>
- 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>