

Seminar on Labor and Education Economics Winter Term 2024/2025

Prof. Jahn / Prof. Nagler / Prof. Oberfichtner

Course Description

During the seminar, participants will discuss a broad range of current topics in labor economics and economics of innovation. This term, we will focus on the economics of imperfect labor markets. The list of topics below provides references.

The seminar has two consecutive parts. **In the first part, students write a thesis (15 pages)** under the guidance of their advisor. In an introductory session, students learn about the principles of scientific work and the scope of analysis that is expected. The thesis elaborates on the literature (see the list of topics for the main article(s) to be covered). Students are expected to search for additional literature and then work independently on their topic. Advisors provide close guidance during this process. **The second part consists of a blocked seminar (January 16th and 17th) of students' presentations.**

The seminar **will take place at Vierzehnheiligen (Bad Staffelstein)** jointly with students from the University of Bayreuth who work on the same topics in parallel. The presentation **will be held jointly** with the corresponding student of the University of Bayreuth. Before preparing their presentations, supervisors will provide students with detailed feedback on their thesis.

Organizational details and grading

- The seminar is jointly organized by Prof. Jahn (Bayreuth), Prof. Nagler and Prof. Oberfichtner.
- Students who want to participate should submit a participation form (available on the website of the Assistant Professorship in Labor & Innovation Economics) indicating their preferred topics to markus.nagler@fau.de until **October 6th, 2024**.
- Topics will be assigned to students by **October 14th, 2024**. Please note that the maximum number of participants is 10 students. After being assigned to a specific topic, students can repeal their participation within a week's time. After that deadline has passed, participation in the seminar is mandatory. Students not handing in a thesis in time will fail the seminar.
- The deadline for submitting the thesis is **December 1st, 2024**.
- Additional information on how to write a seminar paper, how to search for literature, etc. will be provided in an introductory session on **October 14th, 2024, at 11.30am**. The room will be announced shortly before the session via StudOn.
- The seminar will take place on **January 16th and 17th** and will be **fully covered**.
- Grading: The overall grade will reflect the quality of the thesis (50%), the joint presentation in the seminar (30%), and the student's contributions to the discussion following each of the presentations (20%). To pass the seminar, students must obtain at least a grade of 4.0 in each of the parts.
- Presentations should last 30 minutes if held jointly and 25 minutes if held individually.
- **NOTE:** Students have to additionally register for the seminar on a special registration day, likely on **October 28th / 29th**, so they can receive a grade. After this date, it is not possible to step back from the seminar anymore.

List of Topics

Session 1: Labor supply elasticities

Topic 1: Bassier, Ihsaan, Arindrajit Dube, and Suresh Naidu (2022) "Monopsony in Movers: The Elasticity of Labor Supply to Firm Wage Policies." *Journal of Human Resources* 57, Supplement 2022, pp. S50-S86

Topic 2: Hirsch, Boris, Elke J. Jahn, Alan Manning, and Michael Oberfichtner (2022): „The Wage Elasticity of Recruitment.“ IZA Discussion Paper No. 15675

Session 2: Sources of firm labor market power

Topic 3: Prager, Elena and Matt Schmitt (2021): "Employer Consolidation and Wages: Evidence from Hospitals." *American Economic Review*, 111 (2): 397-427.

Topic 4: Johnson, Matthew S., Lavetti, Kurt J., & Lipsitz, Michael (2023). "The labor market effects of legal restrictions on worker mobility." National Bureau of Economic Research Working Paper 31929.

Session 3: Worker behavior

Topic 5: Cortés, Patricia, Pan, Jessica, Pilossoph, Laura, Reuben, Ernesto, & Zafar, Basit (2023). "Gender differences in job search and the earnings gap: Evidence from the field and lab." *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, 138(4), 2069-2126.

Topic 6: Jaeger, Simon, Christopher Roth, Nina Roussille, and Benjamin Schoefer. (2023): „Worker Beliefs About Outside Options.“ *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, conditionally accepted.

Session 4: Working conditions

Topic 7: Maestas, Nicole, Kathleen J. Mullen, David Powell, Till von Wachter, and Jeffrey B. Wenger (2023). "The Value of Working Conditions in the United States and the Implications for the Structure of Wages." *American Economic Review*, 113 (7): 2007-47.

Topic 8: Adams-Prassl, Abi, Balgova, Maria, Qian, Matthias, & Waters, Tom (2023). "Firm concentration & job design: the case of schedule flexible work arrangements."

Session 5: Minimum wages

Topic 9: Azar, Jose, Emiliano Huet-Vaughn, Ioana Marinescu, Bledi Taska, and Till von Wachter. 2023. "Minimum Wage Employment Effects and Labor Market Concentration." *Review of Economic Studies*, accepted.

Topic 10: Dustmann, Christian, Lindner, Attila, Schönberg, Uta, Umkehrer, Matthias, & Vom Berge, Phillipp (2022). „Reallocation effects of the minimum wage.“ *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, 137(1), 267-328.