

MANUEL HOFFMANN

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CURRENT EMPLOYMENT

Princeton University, The Mamdouha S. Bobst Center for Peace and Justice, Visiting Postdoc 2020
Stanford University, College of Medicine, Center for Population Health Sciences, Joint Postdoc
University of Heidelberg, Heidelberg Institute of Global Health, Joint Postdoc

EDUCATION

Ph.D. in Economics, Texas A&M University 2020
European Master in Labour Studies, London School of Economics and University of Trier 2015
M.Sc. in Survey Statistics, University of Trier
M.Sc. in Economic Analysis and Measurement, University of Trier 2014
M.Sc. in Business Administration, University of Trier (*top of my class*)
B.Sc. in Business Administration, University of Trier 2011

RESEARCH AFFILIATION

European Commission, Behavioral Insights Team, Nudge Unit, Expert Consultant 2020
Duisburg-Essen University, CINCH, Health Economics Fellow
Victoria University of Wellington, Research Associate 2019-2020
University of Melbourne, Melbourne Institute, Visiting Researcher 2018
German Institute for Economic Research (DIW), Visiting Researcher
Texas A&M University, Center for Field Experiments and Design (Prof. Petrie/Castillo) 2018-2020
Texas A&M University, Economic Research Laboratory (Prof. Eckel) 2015-2020
University of Trier, Experimental Economics Laboratory (Prof. Vanessa Mertins) 2013-2015
University of Trier, Institute for Labor Law and Industrial Relations in the EU (Prof. Goerke) 2013-2015

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Experimental Economics, Behavioral Economics, Health and Labor Economics, Public and Political Economy

WORKING PAPERS

Vaccines at Work (with Roberto Mosquera and Adrian Chadi - Submitted)

Influenza imposes substantial costs in terms of human lives and productivity losses. Vaccination could be a cost-effective way to reduce these costs, but low take-up rates, particularly of working adults, and vaccination unintentionally causing moral hazard may decrease its benefits. We ran a natural field experiment with employees of a large bank in Ecuador where we experimentally manipulated incentives to participate in a flu vaccination campaign. We find that reducing opportunity costs of vaccination doubled take-up. Coworker peer take-up also increased individual take-up significantly. Contrary to the company's expectations, the effect of vaccination on health outcomes was ineffective with no measurable health externalities. Using administrative records on sickness diagnoses and employee surveys, we find evidence consistent with vaccination causing moral hazard, which could decrease its effectiveness.

Private Health Insurance under Universal Health Care

While the purchase of private health insurance is clearly beneficial in the absence of public insurance, it is difficult to evaluate individual costs and benefits when baseline coverage exists for everyone. I study the consequences of being privately insured when universal health care is the baseline. The problem of selection is approached through a regression kink design in conjunction with a policy implemented in Australia in the year 2000, punishing agents for delaying the purchase of private health until later in life. By investigating the benefits with an administrative tax panel, this study reveals potential hidden costs and unintended consequences of private health insurance under universal health care.

Television, Health and Happiness (with Adrian Chadi)

Watching television is the most time-consuming human activity besides work but its role for individual well-being is unclear. Negative consequences portrayed in the literature raise the question whether this popular activity constitutes an economic good or bad and is a prime example of irrational behavior reducing individual health and happiness. We are the first to comprehensively address this question by exploiting a large-scale natural experiment in West Germany, where households in a few geographically restricted areas received commercial television via terrestrial frequencies. Rich panel data allow us to determine how signal availability over time changes individual time use and well-being. Contrary to previous research, we find no health impact when television consumption increases. For life satisfaction, we even find positive effects. Additional data supports the notion that television is not an economic bad and that non-experimental evidence may be driven by negative selection.

OTHER WORKING PAPERS

- Behavioral Factors of Vaccination Demand: A Literature Review Of Causality and Correlations (with Baggio)
- Stability of Economic Preference During Covid-19 (with Catherine Eckel, Yinjunjie Zhang, Raisa Sara)
- Overcoming Peer Pressure to Drink (with Vanessa Mertins, Bernd Leisen)
- Revenge Giving (with Andrea Kelly, Meradee Tangvatcharapong, Raisa Sara)
- Academia mania? - Promoting Educational Efficiency Through Self-Regulation (with Vanessa Mertins, Marie-Christine Kees and Nicola Baumann)

PUBLICATION

The Pro-Russian Conflict and its Impact on Stock Returns in Russia and the Ukraine,
Journal of International Economics and Economic Policy with Matthias Neuenkirch (2015).

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Texas A&M University, Econometrics (3), Experimental Economics (2), Economic Development, 2015-2020
Teaching Assistant (TA), Tutoring Lab, CIRTL Teaching Certificate
Texas A&M University, Empirical Development Economics, Program Evaluation (2), Guest Lecturer 2017-2019
Texas A&M University, Games and Economic Behavior, Instructor 2017
University of Vechta, International Human Service Management, Instructor 2015
University of Vechta, Game Theory, Behavioral Health Economics, Guest Lecturer 2018-2019
University of Trier, Business I, Business II, Human Resource Management, TA 2010-2014

HONORS, AWARDS AND GRANTS

Texas A&M Graduate Assistantship 2015-2020
Public Choice Society Graduate Student Fellowship (\$700 - Covid-19 cancellation) 2020
European Economic Job Market Travel Grant (\$200)
Princeton University & New York University Abu Dhabi, WESSI Workshop (\$2,000) 2019
SEA Graduate Session Nomination (Funded, incl. Membership)
Texas A&M University, 3 Minute Thesis Competition, Finalist
Texas A&M Student Research Week, 2nd Prize for Graduate Oral Presentation (\$150)
Bush Foundation, Summertime for Advancement in Research (Star) Award 2018
Texas A&M Student Research Week, 1st Prize for Graduate Oral Presentation (\$300)
Texas A&M SAAER, 1st Prize for Economics and 2nd Prize for Lightning Round (\$1,650)
London School of Economics, Erasmus Plus scholarship and Tuition Waiver, 2015
Texas A&M International University, 1st Prize LBV Conference 2013
Texas A&M University Kingsville, 2nd Prize Javelina Research Symposium
Texas A&M Int. University, DAAD Promos and ISEP scholarship, Tuition Waiver
University of Trier (Dr. Rieger), Financial Economics Experiment (€1,000)
Bloomsburg University, PA, DAAD Promos Scholarship, Tuition Waiver
Recommendation for scholarship at the "Studienstiftung des Deutschen Volkes" 2010
Aristotle University, Thessaloniki, Greece, Erasmus Scholarship 2008
National and Kapodistrian University, Athens, Greece, Language Scholarship 2007

PRESENTATIONS (INCL. INVITED AND COVID-19 CANCELLATIONS)

Allied Social Science Association (ASSA), San Diego, Virtual Society of Labor Economists (SOLE), Berlin, Germany, University of Alberta, Canada, Seminar Presentation, Boston College, for Retirement Research, Online Presentation, CINCH Duisburg-Essen University, Germany, Online Presentation, <i>Covid-19 Cancellations</i> : Public Choice Society (PCS), Newport Beach, California; Royal Economic Society (RES), Belfast, United Kingdom, Student Research Week, Texas A&M University, Colloquium on Personnel Economics (COPE), University College London, Unintended Consequences of Regulation, Cambridge University, United Kingdom; Spring Meeting of Young Economists 2020, Bologna, Italy	2020
Allied Social Science Association (ASSA), Atlanta; Winter Institute (WESSI), New York University, Florence; Southern Economic Association (SEA), Fort Lauderdale; Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management (APPAM), Denver; Western Economic Association International (WEAI), San Francisco; McMaster University, Canada; Public, Labor, Industrial Organization (PLIO) Conference, Texas A&M University; Applied Economics Research Symposium, and Student Research Week, Texas A&M University, Organization (PLIO) Conference, Texas A&M University; Applied Economics Research Symposium, and Student Research Week, Texas A&M University and Student Research Week, Texas A&M University	2019
Allied Social Science Association (ASSA), Philadelphia; Advances with Field Experiments (AFE), Boston; Southern Economic Association (SEA) Washington DC; Economic Science Association (ESA), World Meeting, Berlin, Germany; Economic Science Association (ESA), North-American Meeting, Antigua, Guatemala; Graduate School of Economics (GSE) Summer Forum, Barcelona, Spain; University of Melbourne, Australia; University of California, Irvine; TEXAS Conference, San Antonio; Symposium for Agricultural and Applied Economics Research, and Student Research Week, Texas A&M University	2018
Symposium for Agricultural and Applied Economics Research, Texas A&M University Economic Science Association (ESA), North-American Meeting, Richmond, Virginia	2017
Workshop on Self-Control, Self-Regulation and Education, Aarhus University, Denmark	2013

WORKSHOP, SEMINARS AND SUMMER SCHOOL PARTICIPATION

Virtual Market Design Seminar, Virtual Advances with Field Experiments, Essen Health Economics Seminar Series, HEaLth and Pandemics Econ Working Group, MidExLab Virtual Seminar	2020
International Week in Vechta, University of Vechta, Germany; Experimetrics Workshop by Peter Moffat and Open Source for Open Science Workshop, Texas A&M University	2018
Experimental Economics Workshop IFREE, Chapman University, California; Technion Summer School on Decisions, Laws, and the Big Data Revolution, Haifa, Israel	2017
Workshop on Sickness Absenteeism and Presenteeism at the IAAEU, Trier, Germany; eFrame Summer School of Trier and Pisa, University of Trier	2013

REFeree ACTIVITIES

Economic Inquiry, Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization,
Spring Meeting of Young Economists Spain (7 papers)

TECHNICAL AND LANGUAGE SKILLS

Stata, R, Python, Matlab/GNU Octave, SPSS, ArcGIS, PHP, Latex
English (Fluent), German (Native), Spanish (Intermediate) and Greek (Elementary)

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

Royal Economic Society (RES), American Economic Association (AEA), Economic Science Association (ESA), Southern Economic Association (SEA), Western Economic Association International (WEAI), Society for Experimental Finance (SEF), Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management (APPAM)

REFERENCES

Dr. Ragan Petrie	Dr. Marco Castillo	Dr. Jason Lindo	Dr. Catherine Eckel
	Department of Economics		
	Texas A&M University		
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