

MANUEL HOFFMANN

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EDUCATION

Ph.D. in Economics (Expected), Texas A&M University <i>Committee:</i> Ragan Petrie (Chair), Marco Castillo, Jason Lindo, Laura Dague	2020
European Master in Labour Studies, London School of Economics and University of Trier	2015
M.Sc. in Survey Statistics, University of Trier	2015
M.Sc. in Economic Analysis and Measurement, University of Trier	2014
M.Sc. in Business Administration, University of Trier (<i>top of my class</i>)	2014
B.Sc. in Business Administration, University of Trier	2011

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Health Economics, Labor Economics, Public Economics, Development Economics

WORKING PAPERS

Vaccines at Work (with Roberto Mosquera and Adrian Chadi)

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.

PRE-PH.D. 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).

OTHER WORKING PAPERS

“Does Fairness Matter? Only If It Benefits Me” (with Catherine Eckel, Yinjunjie Zhang, Raisa Sara)
“Revenge Giving” (with Andrea Kelly, Meradee Tangvatcharapong and Raisa Sara)
“Academia mania? - Promoting Educational Efficiency Through Self-Regulation” (with Vanessa Mertins, Marie-Christine Kees and Nicola Baumann)

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

2020 Expert Consultant, Behavioral Insights Team, European Commission
Health Economics Fellow, Duisburg-Essen University
2019-2020 Research Associate, Victoria University of Wellington
2018 Visiting Researcher, Melbourne Institute, University of Melbourne
Visiting Researcher, German Institute for Economic Research (DIW)
2016-2020 Research Assistant, Texas A&M University (Drs. Eckel, Brown, Petrie, Castillo)
2018-2020 Research Assistant, Center for Field Experiments and Design, Texas A&M University
2015-2020 Research Assistant, Economic Research Laboratory, Texas A&M University
2013-2015 Research Assistant, Experimental Economics Laboratory, University of Trier
Research Assistant, Institute for Labour Law and Industrial Relations
in the European Union, University of Trier (Drs. Mertins, Chadi)

HONORS, AWARDS AND GRANTS

2015-2020 Texas A&M Graduate Assistantship
2019 Princeton & NYU Abu Dhabi WESSI Workshop (Fully Funded)
SEA Graduate Session Nomination (Funded, incl. Membership)
2nd Prize Graduate Oral Presentation, Texas A&M Student Research Week (\$150)
2018 Summertime for Advancement in Research (Star) Award (Fully Funded)
1st Prize Graduate Oral Presentation at Texas A&M Student Research Week (\$300)
1st Prize Economics and 2nd Prize Lightning Round at Texas A&M SAAER (\$1,650)
2017 Experimental Economics Workshop, Chapman University (Funded)
2015 Erasmus Plus scholarship, London School of Economics (Funded, Tuition Waiver)
2013 1st Prize LBV Conference, Texas A&M International University
2nd Prize Javelina Research Symposium, Texas A&M University Kingsville
Financial and Well-Being Experiment, University of Trier (€1000)
DAAD Promos and ISEP scholarship, Texas A&M Int. University
(Tuition Waiver, Travel and Accommodation Stipend)
2010 DAAD Promos Scholarship, Bloomsburg University, Pennsylvania
(Tuition Waiver, Travel and Accommodation Stipend)
German Academic Scholarship Foundation (Recommendation)
2008 Erasmus Scholarship, Aristotle University, Thessaloniki, Greece
2007 Language Scholarship, National and Kapodistrian University, Athens, Greece

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

2015-2019 Teaching Assistant, Econometrics (2), Experimental Economics (2), Economic Development, Tutoring Lab, CIRTL Teaching Certificate, Texas A&M University
2017 Instructor, Games and Economic Behavior, Texas A&M University
2015 Instructor, International Human Service Management, University of Vechta
2010-2014 Teaching Assistant, Business I, Business II, Human Resource Management, University of Trier

PRESENTATIONS (INCL. INVITED AND FORTHCOMING)

2020 Allied Social Science Association (ASSA), San Diego
2019 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;
2018 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;
2017 Symposium for Agricultural and Applied Economics Research, Texas A&M University
Economic Science Association (ESA), North-American Meeting, Richmond, Virginia
2013 Workshop on Self-Control, Self-Regulation and Education, Aarhus University, Denmark

REFEREE ACTIVITIES

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

TECHNICAL KNOWLEDGE

Stata, R, Python, Matlab/GNU Octave, SPSS, ArcGIS, PHP, Latex

LANGUAGES

English (Fluent), German (Native), Spanish and Greek (Elementary Proficiency)

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

American Economic Association, Economic Science Association, Southern Economic Association, Western Economic Association International, Society for Experimental Finance

REFERENCES

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