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Empirical analysis of social insurance, work incentives and employment outcomes

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Propositions relating to the dissertation

Empirical Analysis of Social Insurance, Work Incentives and Employment Outcomes

by Heike Vethaak

1. When analyzing employment trends, accounting for selection at the intensive margin of labor supply is especially important for women.

2. Changing the application costs of social insurance programs can lead to compositional changes of the pool of potential recipients, already before the moment of application.

3. Translating encouraging or information treatments into formal and mandatory programs is challenging as different populations are responsive to the specific treatments and their responses might differ.

4. The availability of welfare benefits prepayments allows for intertemporal consumption smoothing and, therefore, reduces financial stress among applicants pending the award decision.

5. Policy makers have to make the complex trade-off between providing income security and maintaining incentives to reduce unemployment risk.

6. Randomized controlled trials provide the most reliable estimates of treatment effects, but are only informative on the treatment that is randomized.

7. Caseworkers have an substantial impact on the economic outcomes of workers.

8. Economics is more comprehensive than the perception of many and offers endless interesting research topics.

9. Writing your PhD dissertation during a pandemic is probably different from writing your PhD dissertation not during a pandemic.

10. Sometimes, when you are lucky, colleagues can become really good friends.