MANUEL HOFFMANN

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EDUCATION

Ph.D. in Economics (Expected), 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	*2015*
M.Sc. in Economic Analysis and Measurement, University of Trier	*2014*
M.Sc. in Business Administration, University of Trier (*top of my class*)	*2014*
B.Sc. in Business Administration, University of Trier	*2011*

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Health Economics, Labor Economics, Public Economics, Development Economics

WORKING PAPERS

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. 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.

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 the opportunity costs of vaccination increased take-up by 84%. Contrary to the companys expectations, the effect of vaccination on health outcomes is a precise zero with no measurable health externalities from coworkers. Using administrative records on sickness diagnoses and employee surveys, we find evidence consistent with vaccination causing moral hazard, which could decrease its effectiveness.

A Natural Experiment on Television and Well-Being (with Adrian Chadi)
Watching television is the most time-consuming human activity besides work. Based on previous research, television consumption is detrimental to individual well-being. Hence, economists view this as an example of irrational behavior. This relies on the popular but false belief that research has provided convincing evidence on the negative well-being effects of watching TV. We therefore question this notion by taking advantage of a natural experiment in which access to television signals was quasi-randomly assigned to West German households. Longitudinal data from the German Socio-Economic Panel allows us to determine how signal reception affects psychological outcomes. Contrary to previous research, we observe significant increases in life satisfaction when people watch more television.

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 and 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)

HONORS, AWARDS AND GRANTS

2015-2020	Texas A&M Graduate Assistantship
2019	2nd Prize for Graduate Oral Presentation at Texas A&M Student Research Week
2018	Summertime for Advancement in Research (Star) Award
	1st Prize for Graduate Oral Presentation at Texas A&M Student Research Week
	1st Prize for Economics and 2nd Prize for Lightening Round at Texas A&M SAAER
2015	Erasmus Plus scholarship and Tuition Waiver, London School of Economics
2013	1st Prize LBV Conference, Texas A&M International University
	2nd Prize Javelina Research Symposium, Texas A&M University Kingsville
	DAAD Promos and ISEP scholarship, Tuition Waiver Texas A&M Int. University
	1000 Euro for Financial Experiment, University of Trier (Dr. Rieger)
	DAAD Promos Scholarship, Tuition Waiver, Bloomsburg University, Pennsylvania]
2010	Recommendation for scholarship at the "Studienstiftung des Deutschen Volkes"
2008	Erasmus Scholarship, Aristotle University, Thessaloniki, Greece
2007	Language Scholarship, National and Kapodistrian University, Athens, Greece

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

2018	Visiting Researcher, Melbourne Institute, University of Melbourne
	Visiting Researcher, the German Institute for Economic Research (DIW)
2016-2020	Research Assistant, Texas A&M University (Dr. Castillo, Dr. Petrie)
2016	Research Assistant, Behavioral Economics and Policy Program,
	Texas A&M University (Dr. Brown, Dr. Eckel)
2013-2015	Research Assistant, Institute for Labour Law and Industrial Relations
	in the European Union, University of Trier (Dr. Mertins, Dr. Chadi)

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

2015-2019	Teaching Assistant, Econometrics (2), Experimental Economics (2)
	Economic Development, Tutoring Lab, 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

2019	Seminar Presentation at McMaster University
	PLIO Alumni Conference at Texas A&M University
	Applied Economics Research Symposium at Texas A&M University
	Student Research Week at Texas A&M University
	Allied Social Science Assocation, Atlanta
2018	Southern Economic Association, Washington DC
	Advances with Field Experiments, Boston
	Seminar Presentation, University of Melbourne, Australia
	GSE Summer Forum, Barcelona, Spain
	Economic Science Association, World Meeting, Berlin, Germany
	Applied Microeconomics Brownbag, University of California Irvine
	TExAS Conference at Trinity University, San Antonio, TX
	Symposium for Agricultural and Applied Economics Research, Texas A&M University
	Student Research Week, Texas A&M University
	Allied Social Science Assocation, Philadelphia
2017	Symposium for Agricultural and Applied Economics Research, Texas A&M University
	Economic Science Association, 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 (Belgium and Spain)

TECHNICAL KNOWLEDGE

Stata, R, Python, Matlab, 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

Dr. Ragan Petrie
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