

Topics in Economics of Education

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Description

This is a PhD level course that covers recent developments in the economics of education. Topics are:

- Early childhood interventions and school starting age: At what age should young children start school and how effective is early childhood education?
- Class size: Is reducing class size worth the cost?
- Teachers: Measuring and improving teacher performance
- Parents: How parents influence the schooling outcomes of their children
- Peer effects and diversity: Do peers matter?
- Matching students to schools: An introduction to theory and empirics of school assignment mechanisms
- Returns to schooling : The never ending debate: human capital vs signaling

The course takes place in week 43 (21-25 October) 2019 in seven lectures of two hours each at the University of Oslo. Lecture slides and background papers are provided.

Evaluation: Write referee reports about two papers from a set of paper that will be provided at the end of the course.

Schedule

Below is a list of papers that will be covered in the lectures. If you can read one paper per lecture in advance, I recommend reading the paper indicated with an asterisk (*).

Lecture 1: Early childhood education and School starting age

- Peter Fredriksson and Björn Öckert. (2014). Life-cycle effects of age at school start. *Economic Journal* 124. 977-1004.*
- Edwin Leuven, Mikael Lindahl, Hessel Oosterbeek and Dinand Webbink. (2010). Expanding schooling opportunities for 4-year-olds. *Economics of Education Review* 29. 319–328.
- Kelly Bedard and Elisabeth Dhuey. (2006), The persistence of early childhood maturity: International evidence of long-run age effects, *Quarterly Journal of Economics* 121. 1437-1472.
- Remy J.-C. Pages, Dylan J. Lukes, Drew H. Bailey and Greg J. Duncan. (2019). Elusive Longer-Run Impacts of Head Start: Replications Within and Across Cohorts. EdWorkingPaper No. 19-27.

Lecture 2: Class size

- Joshua Angrist and Victor Lavy. (1999). Using Maimonides' rule to estimate the effect of class size on scholastic achievement. *Quarterly Journal of Economics* 114. 533-575.*
- Alan Krueger. (1999). Experimental Estimates of Education Production Functions. *Quarterly Journal of Economics* 114. 497–532.
- Peter Fredriksson, Björn Öckert and Hessel Oosterbeek. (2013) Long-term effects of class size. *Quarterly Journal of Economics* 128. 249-285.
- Edwin Leuven and Sturla Løkken. (2020). Long term impacts of class size in compulsory school. *Journal of Human Resources* 55 (1). 309-348.

Lecture 3: Teachers

- M. Caridad Araujo, Pedro Carneiro, Yyannú Cruz-Aguayo, Norbert Schady (2016). Teacher Quality and Learning Outcomes in Kindergarten. *Quarterly Journal of Economics* 131, 1415–1453,
- Karthik Muralidharan and Venkatesh Sundararaman. (2011). Teacher performance pay: experimental evidence from India. *Journal of Political Economy* 119(1), 39-77.
- de Ree, Joppe, Karthik Muralidharan, Menno Pradhan and Halsey Rogers. (2018). Double for nothing? Experimental evidence on an unconditional teacher salary increase in Indonesia, *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, 133(2), 993-1039.*
- Simon Briole and Eric Maurin. (2019). Does evaluating teachers make a difference? PSE Working Paper No. 2019-20.

Lecture 4: Parents

- Helena Holmlund, Mikael Lindahl and Erik Plug. (2011). The Causal Effect of Parents' Schooling on Children's Schooling: A Comparison of Estimation Methods. *Journal of Economic Literature* 49 (3), 615–651.*
- Peter Bergman. (2019). Parent-child information frictions and human capital investment: Evidence from a field experiment. *Journal of Political Economy*. Forthcoming.
- Ellen Greaves, Iftikhar Hussain, Birgitta Rabe and Imran Rasul. (2019). Parental responses to information about school quality: Evidence from linked survey and administrative data. Working Paper.
- Rebecca Dizon-Ross. (2019). Parents' Beliefs About Their Children's Academic Ability: Implications for Educational Investments. *American Economic Review* 109(8), 2728-65.

Lecture 5: Peer effects and diversity

- Duflo, E., Dupas, P., and Kremer, M. (2011). Peer effects, teacher incentives, and the impact of tracking: Evidence from a randomized evaluation in Kenya. *American Economic Review*, 101(5):1739–1774.
- Carrell, S. E., Sacerdote, B. I., and West, J. E. (2013). From natural variation to optimal policy? The importance of endogenous peer group formation. *Econometrica*, 81:855–882.
- Adam Booij, Edwin Leuven and Hessel Oosterbeek. (2017). Ability peer effects in university: Evidence from a randomized experiment. *Review of Economic Studies* 84. 547-587.
- Richard Murphy and Felix Weinhardt. (2018). Top of the Class: the Importance of Ordinal Rank. NBER Working Paper No 24958.
- Scott E. Carrell, Mark Hoekstra and James E. West. (2019). The impact of college diversity on behavior toward minorities. *American Economic Journal: Applied Economics*. Forthcoming.
- Gautum Rao. (2019). Familiarity does not breed contempt: Generosity, discrimination and diversity in Delhi. *American Economic Review*. Forthcoming.*

Lecture 6: Matching students to schools

- Atila Abdulkadiroglu. (2012). School Choice Prepared for the Handbook of Market Design, edited by Zvika Neeman, Muriel Niederle, Alvin E. Roth and Nir Vulkan.

- Abdulkadiroglu, A., Che, Y.-K., and Yasuda, Y. (2011). Resolving conflicting preferences in school choice: the Boston mechanism reconsidered. *American Economic Review*, 101(1):399–410.*
- Kapor, A., Neilson, C. A., and Zimmerman, S. D. (2017). Heterogeneous beliefs and school choice mechanisms. Working paper 612 Princeton University IR Section.

Lecture 7: Returns to schooling and Signaling

- Joshua Angrist and Alan Krueger. (1991). Does compulsory school attendance affect schooling and earnings? *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, 106, 979-1014.
- Esther Duflo. (2001). Schooling and labor market consequences of school construction in Indonesia: Evidence from an unusual policy experiment. *American Economic Review* 91. 795-813.
- Michael Spence (1973). Job market signaling. *Quarterly Journal of Economics* 87 (3): pp. 355-374.
- Damon Clark and Paco Martorell (2014). The Signaling Value of a High School Diploma. *Journal of Political Economy* 122 (2): pp. 282-318.*
- Carolina Arteaga. (2018). The effect of human capital on earnings: Evidence from a reform at Colombia's top university. *Journal of Public of Economics* 157. 212–225.