



NEWSLETTER

No. 10

1 October 2009

Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin
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CURRENT EVENTS

More information can be found here:

http://sfb649.wiwi.hu-berlin.de/fedc/events_en.php

12 – 13 October 2009

Hermann Otto Hirschfeld Lecture 2009

Location: Spandauer Straße 1, Heilig-Geist-Kapelle

Information: [Outline](#)

The Evolution of Skill Demands and Wage Inequality in Industrialized Countries: Facts, Models, and Puzzles

David Autor, MIT Department of Economics

These lectures will analyze the evolution of skill demands and wage structures in industrialized countries in the post-war period, focusing on the interactions among skill supplies, technological and organizational change, and international trade in both its traditional and modern manifestations. A key motivating observation is that job growth in the U.S., U.K. and continental Europe has increasingly concentrated in the tails of the skill distribution over the last two decades, with disproportionate employment gains in high-wage, high-education occupations and low-wage, low-education occupations. Prof. Autor argues that traditional labor demand models based upon one or two 'skills' are ill suited for understanding this 'hollowing out' of employment, and he proposes an alternative framework that can potentially guide analysis and policy.

30 – 31 October 2009

Humboldt-Princeton Conference 2009

Location: Princeton, USA

Information: [Outline](#)

Perceiving and Measuring Financial Risk: Credit, Energy and Illiquidity

The Humboldt-Princeton Conference 2009 takes place October 30-31, 2009. After the great success of the first Conference held at Humboldt-Universität in 2007, this year researchers of both universities will meet in Princeton to discuss recent developments in "Perceiving and Measuring Financial Risk: Credit, Energy and Illiquidity". Among the lecturers are Wolfgang Härdle, Vladimir Spokoiny, and Ostap Okhrin from the Humboldt-Universität, and Markus Brunnermeier, Jianquin Fan and Ronnie Sircar from Princeton University.

REGULAR RESEARCH SEMINARS

An overview is available at:

<http://sfb649.wiwi.hu-berlin.de/fedc/seminars.php>

WIAS RESEARCH SEMINAR MATHEMATICAL STATISTICS

Location: Weierstrass Institute for Applied Analysis and
Stochastics, Mohrenstraße 39, 10117 Berlin
Erhard-Schmidt-Hörsaal

Time: every Wednesday, 10 a.m.

21 October 2009

Andreas Maurer

"Similarity and transfer learning"

NEWS OF THE PROJECTS

Dietmar Fehr (A6) attended the Annual Meeting of the Verein für Socialpolitik in Magdeburg and the European Meeting of the Economic Science Association in Innsbruck. At both conferences he presented his paper "Communication in Coordination Games and Coordination Neglect".

Dorothea Kübler (A6) presented the paper "Information and Beliefs in a Repeated Normal-Form Game" at the ESEM 2009 in Barcelona. She gave a talk about "Why Votes have a Value" at the 2009 meeting of the Verein für Socialpolitik in Magdeburg.

Roland Strausz (A8) gave a talk about "Regulatory risk under optimal incentive regulation" at the 39. Wirtschaftswissenschaftliches Seminar in Ottobeuren from 13 to 16 September 2009

Alena Myšičková (B1) will leave the Chair of Statistics to the end of September. Starting from 1 October 2009 she is working as a research assistant at the Max Planck Institute in Berlin.

Wolfgang Härdle (B1) has been invited to serve in the advisory committee of Statistics Department at Rutgers University for the establishment of a 'financial statistics and risk management' master program.

Prof. Härdle has launched a new joint research project with Prof. Overbeck of Universität Giessen and **Barbara Choros (B1)** entitled "Modelling the Risk of CDO Dynamics". The project was assessed and approved by the Deutsche Forschungsgesellschaft (DFG) who will be financing it during its two year life span. Wolfgang Härdle was in London from 7 to 19 September as a visiting professor at the Department of Economics at the University College London where, as a guest of Professor Andrew Chesher, he gave a talk at the "UCL and Cowles (Yale, USA) Joint Conference" on 18 and 19 September 2009.

He gave a talk about "CDO and HAC" at the Centre for Microdata Methods and Practice on 8 September 2009 and another one about "Partial linear quantile regression and bootstrap confidence bands" on 15 September 2009.

Barbara Choroś (B1) and Prof. Härdle (B1) gave a short course about "Joint Extremes, Copulae and CDO Valuation" on 24 September 2009 during the Workshop on Copula Theory and Its Applications that took place in Warszawa from 25 to 26 September 2009.

Nikolaus Hautsch (B8) attended the Conference on Individual Decision Making, High Frequency Econometrics and Limit Order Book Dynamics that took place at Warwick Business School from 23 to 25 September 2009 and gave a keynote speech on "Econometrics of Limit Order Books: Dynamics, Prediction and Market Impact".

Helmut Gründl, Thomas Post, Katja Hanewald (B9), Tian Zhou-Richter and Sebastian Schlütter attended the Annual Meeting of the American Risk and Insurance Association (ARIA) in Providence, Rhode Island (USA). Helmut Gründl, Thomas Post, Tian Zhou-Richter and Katja Hanewald gave presentations on the topics "Stochastic Mortality, Macroeconomic Risks, and Life Insurer Solvency", "Asymmetric Information in the Private Long-Term Care Insurance" and "Mortality Modeling: Lee-Carter and the Macroeconomy".

Katja Hanewald took part at the Annual Conference 2009 of the Verein für Socialpolitik in Magdeburg and gave a presentation on the topic "Mortality Modeling: Lee-Carter and the Macroeconomy". Helmut Gründl, Tian Zhou-Richter, and Katja Hanewald attended the 36th Seminar of the European Group of Risk and Insurance Economists (EGRIE in Bergen (Norway) and presented the papers "Don't They Care? Or, Are They Just Unaware? Risk Perception and the Demand for Long Term Care Insurance" and "Stochastic mortality, Macroeconomic Risks, and Life Insurer Solvency".

Katja Hanewald took part at the Longevity 5: The Fifth International Longevity Risk and Capital Markets Solutions Conference in New York and presented the papers "Mortality Modeling: Lee-Carter and the Macroeconomy" and "Stochastic Mortality, Macroeconomic Risks, and Life Insurer Solvency".

Ostap Okhrin (B10) gave a talk about "CDO Pricing with Hierarchical Archimedean Copulae" at the workshop "Copulae Theory and its Applications" in Warszawa from 25 - 26 September.

Juliane Scheffel (C7) participated at the 2009 Annual Congress of the Verein für Socialpolitik in Magdeburg from 8 to 11 September 2009 and at the annual conference of the European Association of Labour Economists in Tallinn from 10 to 12 September where she presented her paper "Honey, I'll Be Working Late Tonight - The Effect of Individual Work Routines on Leisure Time Synchronization of Couples".

Michael C. Burda (C7) participated on the conference "The ECB and its Watchers XI" on 4 September 2009 in Frankfurt/Main and was a discussant at the afternoon session "Government Bail-Outs in the Euro Areas: Much-needed Rescue from Fiscal Collapse or Deadly Threat to Long-run Stability of EMU?".

He took part at the annual conference "Climate Protection: Conditions and Perspectives" of the Verein für Socialpolitik on 8-9 September 2009 in Magdeburg. He was chairperson at the session "Measurement of Productivity" and gave a talk on "Solow Residuals without Capital Stocks". He also participated on a podiums discussion "Rebuilding the East: 20 Years after the Fall of the Wall".

Prof. Burda attended the 21st annual conference of the European Association of Labour Economists, which took place on 10-12 September 2009 in Tallinn. He

gave a talk on "Unionization, Stochastic Dominance, and Compression of the Wage Distribution: Evidence from Germany" and was chairperson on session "Wage Inequality and Mobility: Aggregate Developments".

He participated on a round-table discussion about "Economic-political Challenges for the next Legislative Period" with Prof. Bofinger, Prof. Hüther and chief economist Michael Heise on 16 September 2009 in Frankfurt/Main, organized by the German magazine "Wirtschaftswoche".

Prof. Burda was invited to participate on the conference "Falling Behind or Catching Up? The East German Economy in the Twentieth Century" on 24-26 September 2009 in Washington, organized by the German Historical Institute Washington. He attended the public panel discussion "A Culture of Decline? Politics, Economy, and Social Life in East Germany" and gave a talk on "The East German Economy on its Way into the Twenty-First Century".

He Burda attended the "1st Workshop of the Research Training Group" at the Department of Economics at the University of Vienna, from 28-29 September 2009. He gave a public lecture on "The Financial Crisis – the End of Globalization?".

Dieter Nautz (C14) participated at the 2009 Annual Congress of the Verein für Socialpolitik in Magdeburg from 8 to 11 September 2009 and presented his paper "The Impact of the European Monetary Union on Inflation Persistence in the Euro Area" (joint work with Barbara Meller).

Sascha Becker (C14) participated at the 2009 Annual Congress of the Verein für Socialpolitik in Magdeburg and presented his paper "Inflation, Price Dispersion, and Monetary Search: Evidence from the European Union" (joint work with Dieter Nautz).

GUESTS OF THE CRC 649

You find a summary about all guests here:
http://sfb649.wiwi.hu-berlin.de/fedc/guests_en.php

Current Guests of the CRC 649 "Economic Risk":

12.10.2009 -
 11.01.2010

Maximilian Kuhn

Freie Universität Berlin
 Project: Energy Markets Research, "Was treibt den Ölpreis?"



25.09.2009 -
 31.12.2009

Sandra Nikolov

Freie Universität Berlin
 Project: Mergers & Acquisitions - Aktivitäten auf dem deutschen Aktienmarkt
 Ziegelstr. 13a, room 607, phone 2093 1455



21.09.2009 -
 31.12.2009

Antonina Waszczuk

Viadrina Frankfurt (Oder)
 Project: persönlicher Ertragssteuern im Kapitalisierungszinssatz
 Ziegelstr. 13a, room 601, phone 2093 1462



24.08.2009 -
 30.11.2009

Stefan Trueck

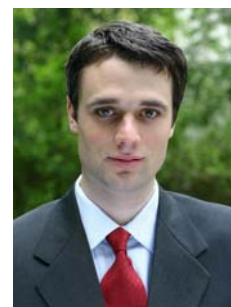
Macquarie University
 Project: Quantitative Finance, Risk Management, Energy Economics, Financial Econometrics, Power and Emission Markets, Credit Risk, Operational Risk, Applied Statistics, Real Estate Finance
 Ziegelstr. 13a, room 607, phone 2093 1455



12.01.2009 -
31.12.2009

Maximilian Stadler

Technische Universität Berlin
Project: Shareholder Aktivismus durch Hedge
Fonds
Ziegelstr. 13a, room 601, phone 2093 1462



05.01.2009 -
31.12.2009

Enzo Weber

Freie Universität Berlin
Project: Structural Dynamic Conditional
Correlation
Ziegelstr. 13a, room 601, phone 2093 1462



16.11.2007 -
31.12.2009

Jan Philipp Weber

Freie Universität Berlin
Project: Macroeconomic determinants of real
estate bubbles
Ziegelstr. 13a, room 601, phone 2093 1462



31.05.2007 -
31.12.2009

Eduardo Ortiz Tanchez

University of Oxford
Project: Effekt der Wahl des Basiswertes auf
den Preis von Wetterderivaten
Ziegelstr. 13a, room 601, phone 2093 1462



NEW DISCUSSION PAPERS

You find all discussion papers under:

http://sfb649.wiwi.hu-berlin.de/fedc/discussionPapers_en.php

2009-042

Fang Yao

"The Cost of Tractability and the Calvo Pricing Assumption"

2009-043

Michael C. Burda, Daniel S. Hamermesh

"Evidence on Unemployment, Market Work and Household
Production"

2009-044

Wolfgang Härdle, Nikolaus Hautsch, Andrija Mihoci

"Modelling and Forecasting Liquidity Supply Using Semi-
parametric Factor Dynamics"

PUBLICATIONS

Strausz, R. (2009)

Planned Obsolescence as an Incentive Device for Unobservable Quality, The Economic Journal, 119 (October), 1405–1421.
doi: 10.1111/j.1468-0297.2009.02290.x.

Nautz, D. and Schmidt, S. (2009)

Monetary Policy Implementation and the Federal Funds Rate, Journal of Banking and Finance, 33(7), 1274-1284.

Becker, S. and Nautz, D. (2009)

Inflation and Relative Price Variability: New Evidence for the United States, Southern Economic Journal, 76(1), 146-164.

Gassen, J. and Ashbaugh Skaife, H. (2009)

Can Audit Reforms Affect the Information Role of Audits? Evidence from the German Market. Contemporary Accounting Research 26 (3): 867-898

Boeri, T. and Burda. M.C. (2009)

Preferences for Collective versus Individualised Wage Setting, Economic Journal, Vol. 119, Issue 540, p. 1440-1463, October 2009.

CRC STAFF

At this point the Collaborative Research Center 649 "Economic Risk" wants to present Gunda-Alexandra Detmers and Sascha Becker, staff members of the project C14 "Expectations management of central banks".



Gunda-Alexandra Detmers was born in Aurich. She received her diploma in economics at the Goethe Universität Frankfurt am Main with a thesis "On the Transmission of Interest Rate Volatility during the financial turmoil: Evidence from the European Money Market". During her studies she worked as a student research assistant at the department of Money and Macroeconomics. Gunda completed interns at the Federal Statistical Office, Wiesbaden, and the European Central Bank, Frankfurt. She attended courses of the Doctoral Program in Economics at the Goethe Universität Frankfurt am Main. Since March 2009, she is working as a research assistant at the Chair of Statistics and Econometrics of Dieter Nautz at the Freie Universität Berlin. Her research interests cover time series econometrics and the empirical analysis of monetary policy implementation.

Sascha Becker is research assistant at the Institute for Econometrics (Freie Universität Berlin). He received his Diploma in Economics from the Goethe University Frankfurt in December 2006. Before taking up the position as a research assistant at the subproject C14 of Dieter Nautz in April 2009, he was working at the Chair of Applied Macroeconomics at the Goethe University Frankfurt. Beside his participation in the CRC subproject, he is also a member of the research project Inflation and Relative Price Variability (supported by Monetary Stability Foundation). His current research focuses on the real effects of inflation.



QUOTE OF THE MONTH

"Management is doing things right; leadership is doing the right things."

Peter Drucker
(1909-2005)

Please also note that the newsletter is published on the homepage of the CRC 649.

**The CRC 649 – Newsletter is published at the beginning of each month.
 Editorial deadline for the eleventh Newsletter 2009 is 30.10.2009.**