

ifb-Forschungskolloquium 2018

Datum/Ort	25. September 2018, 14:15 – 15:45 Uhr (= „14 Uhr c.t.“), ifb-Bibliothek
Referentin	Dr. Wilfred Uunk (Universität Bamberg)
Thema	Why women enter academic STEM majors less often than men: The impact of math-to-language grades
Abstract	Using data from a national representative sample of college entrants from the German National Educational Panel Study (NEPS), this study investigates the impact of math-to-language ('relative math') grades on why women enter academic STEM major less often than men. While prior studies testing the math ability explanation could not well account for this gender gap by absolute math grades or test scores, our linear probability analyses show that relative math grades can account much better for the gender gap. Over 40% of the gender difference in choosing 'mathematics/science' majors can be attributed to this factor, and additional analyses using a person-major design reveal an increasing effect of relative math grades the more math-intensive a major is. The gender gap in choosing engineering could however less well be explained since even women relatively strong in math stay away from this field of study.