

ifb-Forschungskolloquium 2018

Datum/Ort	!! Montag !! 12. März 2018, 13:00 – 14:30 Uhr, ifb-Bibliothek
Referentin	Zafer Büyükkeçeci (Universität Bamberg)
Thema	Family, firms, and fertility: A study of network effects
Abstract	<p>Demographic research indicates that fertility decisions are not only shaped by individuals' own characteristics, but also by relevant others through social interaction. Recent research directed attention to networks such as siblings, friends and colleagues to examine social interaction effects on fertility decisions. This burgeoning literature showed that fertility decisions of individuals within various networks are positively correlated. While theories of social interaction (e.g., social learning and social comparison) proposes causal mechanisms, it is not clear whether these correlations are in fact driven by social interaction or other contextual/correlated factors such as shared environment and background characteristics. As siblings, friends and colleagues are likely to be similar in various characteristics, these associations found in the literature may be overstated.</p> <p>In this study, we question whether these associations in fertility decisions found in micro-level networks are due to the direct influence of the network agents. More specifically, we investigate whether (i) colleagues' fertility decisions, and (ii) siblings' fertility decisions influence an individual's transition to parenthood directly. It is plausible that the positive correlation found can be driven by shared features like parental background characteristics, a change in firm policies or similarities in fertility preferences. To account for this endogeneity, (i) we use a sibling's colleague's fertility as an instrument when assessing sibling effects on fertility decisions, and, in the same vein, (ii) we use a colleague's sibling's fertility as an instrument for colleague effects on fertility decisions.</p>