

Seminar: Firm performance, market selection, and employment

Summer Term 2016

Chair of Economics: Productivity and Innovation

Prof. Dr. Steffen Müller

Contents

The performance of firms is not only relevant for the development of an economy as a whole, but also for job creation and destruction which in turn affects individual workers in various ways. In this seminar, we will discuss recent empirical papers dealing with different aspects of firm performance and its determinants, market selection mechanisms, job creation and destruction, and the consequences of involuntary job loss for affected employees. The following papers will be discussed in the seminar:

1. Ahern, K. R. and Dittmar, A. K. (2012): The changing of the boards: The impact on firm valuation of mandated female board representation, *Quarterly Journal of Economics* 127, 137–197.
2. Basker, E. and Miranda, J. (2014): Taken By Storm: Business Survival in the Aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, Center for Economic Studies Working Paper 14–20, Washington.
3. Bloom, N., Eifert, B., Mahajan, A., McKenzie, D., and Roberts, J. (2013): Does Management Matter? Evidence from India, *Quarterly Journal of Economics* 128, 1–51.
4. Davis, S. J., Haltiwanger, J., Handley, K. Jarmin, R., Lerner, J., and Miranda, J. (2014): Private Equity, Jobs, and Productivity, *American Economic Review* 104, 3956–3990.
5. Foster, L., Grim, C., and Haltiwanger, J. (2016): Reallocation in the Great Recession: Cleansing or Not? *Journal of Labor Economics* 34, S293–S331.
6. Haltiwanger, J., Jarmin, R. S., and Miranda, J. (2013): Who Creates Jobs? Small Versus Large Versus Young, *Review of Economics and Statistics* 95, 347–361.
7. Huttunen, K. and Kellokumpu, J. (2016): The Effect of Job Displacement on Couples' Fertility Decisions, *Journal of Labor Economics*, online first (DOI: 10.1086/683645).
8. Lazear, E. P., Shaw, K. L., and Stanton, C. (2016): Making Do with Less: Working Harder during Recessions, *Journal of Labor Economics* 34, S333–S360.
9. Upward, R. and Wright, P. W. (2015): Don't Look Down: New Evidence on Job Loss in a Flexible Labour Market, GEP Research Paper 2015/10, Nottingham.
10. Weber, A. and Zulehner, C. (2014): Competition and Gender Prejudice: Are Discriminatory Employers Doomed to Fail? *Journal of the European Economic Association* 12, 492–521.

Structure

The seminar will begin with an introductory session on April 15 2016. If you do not come to this session you will lose permission to take part in the seminar. In this first session, each student will be assigned one of the papers and is expected to write a short seminar paper (max. 8 pages) about this paper. Moreover, students will be assigned a second paper from the literature list, which should be discussed in the presentation session. Seminar papers are expected to be submitted by May 22 (before midnight of that day) to daniel.fackler@iwh-halle.de. We will meet again on June 10 for our presentation session (depending on the number of participants there may be a second meeting for presentations, probably on June 11). For the

presentation session, each student should prepare **two** presentations: One presentation about the own paper (max. 25 min., mainly discussing what the seminar paper was about); a second presentation critically discussing the paper presented by the other student (max. 10 min.). The final grade will comprise two separately graded parts: the seminar paper (2/3) and the two presentations (1/3)

Enlistment and prerequisites

How to enlist? Write an email indicating your **name** and **student ID** to daniel.fackler@iwh-halle.de. Also state your preferences for three of the papers from the literature list (descending from most to least preferred). Students should have a solid background in multivariate regression analysis, please attach your **latest transcript of records** (download from hisqis is sufficient). Enlisting **starts on February 1st** and **ends on April 10th**. The result of the selection procedure will be announced by email. The mandatory enrolment (with your signature) is during the introductory session (on **April 15th**). At this point there will be a chance for students on a waiting list to take vacant places (from students not signing in).