

Labor Market Policy Seminar

*Job search, labor market policies, and employment*

Prof. Dr. Gesine Stephan

Winter term 2024/25

The seminar is aimed at students of the Master in Economics and the Master in Labor Market and Human Resources (Arbeitsmarkt und Personal). For the seminar, students write a paper focusing on one or two recent empirical studies related to job search, labor market policies, and employment. The aim is to present these studies - which often use experimental or quasi-experimental designs – in the context of the broader literature and to critically discuss the methods and policy implications used. Students may also suggest other topics or conduct their own empirical analysis.

Course work includes a seminar paper, a 25-minute presentation of the paper, and class participation in the form of a discussion of a fellow student's paper that introduces the group discussion.

Introductory meeting:	Friday, 25.10.2024, 14:00 - 15:30, Zoom
Seminar presentations:	Friday, 31.1.2025, 12:00 - 18:00, LG 5.152 Saturday, 1.2.2025, 10:00 - 18:00, LG 5.152

If you are interested in participating, please contact [gesine.stephan@iab.de](mailto:gesine.stephan@iab.de) no later than **October 20** and include your name, matriculation number, and topic preferences.

Ten possible topics are listed on the next page; you may also suggest another topic or your own empirical analysis. Please check the literature before deciding on a topic; the articles suggested vary in difficulty and length. Topics will be assigned on a first-come, first-served basis. Participants can begin their work as soon as they have reserved a topic.

Please make an early appointment with the course instructor to discuss your proposed outline of the paper. You must submit the paper (approximately 15 pages) via email by **December 22, 2024**. You will be assigned a fellow student's paper for discussion by December 23. Attendance at all seminar presentations is mandatory.

## Potential topics and starting literature

### 1. Job seekers' expectations

Caliendo, M., Mahlstedt, R., Schmeißer, A., & Wagner, S. (2023). The Accuracy of Job Seekers' Wage Expectations. arXiv preprint arXiv:2309.14044, <https://arxiv.org/pdf/2309.14044>

Mueller, A. I., & Spinnewijn, J. (2023). Expectations data, labor market, and job search. Handbook of Economic Expectations, 677-713, <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/B9780128229279000306> or [https://personal.lse.ac.uk/SPINNEWI/HB\\_expectations.pdf](https://personal.lse.ac.uk/SPINNEWI/HB_expectations.pdf)

### 2. Job search strategies

Fluchtmann, J., Glenny, A. M., Harmon, N., & Maibom, J. (2023). Unemployed job search across people and over time: Evidence from applied-for jobs, Journal of Labor Economics, forthcoming, <https://www.journals.uchicago.edu/doi/pdfplus/10.1086/725165>

Altmann, S., Mahlstedt, R., Rattenborg, M., & Sebald, A. (2023). Which Occupations Do Unemployed Workers Target? Insights from Online Job Search Profiles. IZA Discussion Paper 16696, <https://docs.iza.org/dp16696.pdf>

### 3. The role of caseworkers in the unemployment insurance and welfare system

Schmieder, J. F., & Trenkle, S. (2020). Disincentive effects of unemployment benefits and the role of caseworkers. Journal of Public Economics, 182, 104096, <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0047272719301574>

Bolhaar, J., Ketel, N., & van der Klaauw, B. (2020). Caseworker's discretion and the effectiveness of welfare-to-work programs. Journal of Public Economics, 183, 104080, <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0047272719301410>

### 4. The effects of job search assistance programs

Cheung, M., Egebark, J., Forslund, A., Laun, L., Rödin, M., & Vikström, J. (2023). Does job search assistance reduce unemployment? Evidence on displacement effects and mechanisms, Journal of Labor Economics (forthcoming), <https://www.journals.uchicago.edu/doi/10.1086/726384>

Cottier, L., Flückiger, Y., Kempeneers, P., & Lalive, R. (2024). Employment Effects of Job Search Assistance for the Long-Term Unemployed, AEA Papers and Proceedings Vol. 114, 577-581, <https://www.aeaweb.org/articles?id=10.1257/pandp.20241093>

### 5. The effects of generous wage subsidies

Albanese, A., Cockx, B., & Dejemppe, M. (2024). Long-term effects of hiring subsidies for low-educated unemployed youths. Journal of Public Economics, 235, 105137, <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0047272724000732?via%3Dihub>

Barham, T., Cadena, B. C., & Turner, P. S. (2023). Taking a Chance on Workers: Evidence on the Effects and Mechanisms of Subsidized Employment from an RCT, IZA Discussion Paper 16221, <https://www.iza.org/publications/dp/16221/taking-a-chance-on-workers-evidence-on-the-effects-and-mechanisms-of-subsidized-employment-from-an-rct>

## 6. The Finnish basic income experiment

Verho, J., Hämäläinen, K., & Kanninen, O. (2022). Removing welfare traps: Employment responses in the Finnish basic income experiment. *American Economic Journal: Economic Policy*, 14(1), 501-522, <https://www.aeaweb.org/articles?id=10.1257/pandp.20241091>

Hiilamo, H. (2022). A truly missed opportunity: The political context and impact of the basic income experiment in Finland. *European Journal of Social Security*, 24(3), 177-191, <https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/full/10.1177/13882627221104501>

## 7. Short-time work allowances and the Covid19-pandemic

Giupponi, G., Landais, C., & Lapeyre, A. (2022). Should we insure workers or jobs during recessions?. *Journal of Economic Perspectives*, 36(2), 29-54, <https://www.aeaweb.org/articles?id=10.1257/jep.36.2.29>

Bossler, M., Osiander, C., Schmidtke, J., & Trappmann, M. (2023). Free riding on short-time work allowances? Results from an experimental survey design. *Kyklos*, 76(4), 882-901, <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1111/kykl.12354>

## 8. Labor market integration of refugees: Evidence from Germany

Kanas, A., & Kosyakova, Y. (2023). Greater local supply of language courses improves refugees' labor market integration. *European Societies*, 25(1), 1-36, <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/14616696.2022.2096915>

Kasrin, Z., & Tübbicke, S. (2022). Which active labor market policies work for male refugees? Evidence from Germany. *Journal of Social Policy*, 1-24, <https://www.cambridge.org/core/journals/journal-of-social-policy/article/which-active-labor-market-policies-work-for-male-refugees-evidence-from-germany/A0C4E6266A728DF5F5F3DDACD1E180EC>

## 9. Labor market integration of refugees: Evidence from Denmark

Foged, M., Hasager, L., & Peri, G. (2024). Comparing the effects of policies for the labor market integration of refugees. *Journal of Labor Economics*, 42(S1), S335-S377, <https://www.journals.uchicago.edu/doi/full/10.1086/728806>

Foged, M., & Van der Werf, C. (2023). Access to language training and the local integration of refugees. *Labour Economics*, 84, 102366, <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0927537123000416>

## 10. Labor market integration of refugees: Evidence from Sweden

Dahlberg, M., Egebark, J., Vikman, U., & Özcan, G. (2024). Labor market integration of refugees: RCT evidence from an early intervention program in Sweden. *Journal of Economic Behavior & Organization*, 217, 614-630, <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S016726812300433X>

Ek, S., Hammarstedt, M., & Skedinger, P. (2024). Low-skilled jobs, language proficiency, and job opportunities for refugees: an experimental study. *The Scandinavian Journal of Economics*, 126(2), 355-386, <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1111/sjoe.12549>

## Some instructions

### Term paper

- Typical outline (to be adapted to your specific topic): Introduction, theoretical considerations, empirical evidence, conclusions, and discussion.
- Clarify: Why is the topic important/interesting, what are the contributions of the presented studies to the literature, what needs to be criticized, where are there still research gaps?
- Literature: You are expected to research and utilize additional literature.
- Format: Approximately 15 pages (+/-2 pages) + cover page + references, 11-point Times New Roman font, 1 ½ line spacing, 3 cm margins top/bottom/side, no list of figures/tables/abbreviations required.
- Citations: In text (not in footnotes), e.g. Arni (2015), Arni and Schiprowski (2015), Arni et al. (2015) if more than three authors....

### Important

- Cite correctly! Always cite the source of your arguments (and at the beginning of a paragraph, not at the end if the entire paragraph refers to a specific paper). All direct quotations must be indicated by quotation marks.
- Do not write down anything you did not understand in the original literature. When in doubt, talk to the instructor and ask about the critical points.

### Discussion of a fellow student's thesis paper

- Aims to provide a starting point for discussion of a thesis paper; typically done in the form of a short slide presentation
- Typical outline: Brief summary (1 slide), general assessment (1 slide), specific points (was something wrong or missing, could you add more interesting research to the discussion?)

### Some online tips if this is your first term paper:

- Why reliable information is important <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NIgdoj58jKc>
- Search for scientific information  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j5-cLw5EAU8>
- Evaluate the quality of information <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1UwHgXE9h70>
- Cite correctly  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4GTt75a3KFI>
- Access scientific information for free  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JtgCAWFKpJw>