

Centre For Health Economics Seminar Series 2018

RAIN, RAIN, GO AWAY: WEATHER AND CHILDREN'S TIME ALLOCATION

Presenter: Luke Connelly, The University of Queensland
Date: Wednesday, 16 May 2018
Time: 12.00pm - 1.00pm
Venue: RB Scotton Room
Centre for Health Economics



Abstract

Time is an extremely valuable resource, especially for children, as their time allocation among different activities has been found to affect their development outcomes. This study contributes to a broader understanding of children's time allocation and provides insights into the effects of an unexplored channel through which poor weather conditions may influence children's development by presenting the first estimates of the causal effects of weather on children's time allocation. We use individual-level data from over 45,000 time-use diaries of children from two nationally representative cohorts of Australian children whose time-use diaries were surveyed biannually over 10 years to measure the time allocation of children and exploit exogenous variations in local weather conditions observed during the random diary dates. Our results reveal that unfavourable weather conditions, as represented by cold or hot temperature or rain, cause children to switch activities from outdoors to indoors, mainly by reducing the time allocated to active or travel and increasing the time allocated to media. Furthermore, we find that the effects of bad weather are more pronounced on weekends and heterogeneous across different sub-groups. Our results also provide some evidence of adaptation, as temperature tends to have greater impact not only in winter months but also in colder regions. Our findings are robust to a wide range of sensitivity checks, including controlling for individual fixed effects and using alternative model specifications.

Presenter

Luke Connelly has been Professor of Health at the University of Queensland (UQ) since 2008. From 2015 to January 2018 he was the Inaugural and Acting Director of the Centre for the Business and Economics of Health (CBEH, UQ). In 2017 he was appointed as Professor (part-time, permanent) at The University of Bologna via the "Direct Call" of international academics of standing. His main interests are in health economics and insurance economics.

VISITORS ARE MOST WELCOME

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