Women’s Employment and the Decline of Cooking Time in France: A Longitudinal Analysis using the 1985 and 2009 Time-Use Surveys (joint with Marie Plessz)

Centre For Health Economics Seminar Series 2016

Presented by: Professor Fabrice Etilé  
Paris School of Economics

Date: Wednesday 27 January, 2016  
Time: 12.00 noon to 1.00 pm  
Venue: RB Scotton Room

Abstract:

French food culture is often depicted as protecting France against the worldwide obesity epidemic. One persistent “cliché” is that French would consume good home cooked food. This research shows that the cooking time has indeed declined over the last 40 years. As in other countries, the rise in women’s employment has contributed to this trend. Yet, changes in labour market opportunities for women account for only 20% of the decline. The decline in women’s cooking time has not been offset by an increase in men’s cooking time, in line with sociological accounts of the persistence of gender norms in household chores. We also find suggestive evidence that technological innovations have helped women to face the double burden of work and household production. Altogether, these findings imply that nutritional policies should put less emphasis on home cooking, and focus more on the healthiness of processed food, prepared meals and food-away.

Presenter:

Fabrice Etilé is Research Professor at the Paris School of Economics. He works mainly on risky health behaviours, food consumption, and the dynamics of food systems, using econometric techniques and laboratory experiments.