

## Centre For Health Economics Seminar Series 2016

# EARLY LIFE HEALTH INTERVENTIONS AND CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT: EVIDENCE FROM SPECIAL CARE NURSERY ASSIGNMENT IN AUSTRALIA'S NORTHERN TERRITORY



**Presenter:** Asst Prof. Kevin Schnepel, University of Sydney  
**Date:** Wednesday 19 October 2016  
**Time:** 12.00pm -1.00pm  
**Venue:** RB Scotton Room  
Centre for Health Economics

### Abstract:

This paper studies the effect of improved early-life health care, through assignment to a special care nursery (SCN), on cognitive and non-cognitive skill development. We use linked administrative data in the Northern Territory of Australia and exploit the fact that assignment to SCN is largely based on rules of thumb involving low birth-weight thresholds. We find large positive effects of SCN assignment on physical development, social competence, and emotional maturity at age five for indigenous children. We do not find similar benefits among non-indigenous children. Our results suggest that costly early-life health interventions, that are shown to increase survival probabilities of children in the short run, can also substantially boost non-cognitive skills in early childhood for children from severely disadvantaged socioeconomic backgrounds.

### Presenter:

Kevin Schnepel is an assistant professor of economics at The University of Sydney, a research affiliate of IZA, and a research fellow of the Life Course Centre. His research primarily focuses on crime, health and labor economics. He completed his Ph.D. in 2013 at the University of California Santa Barbara.

### VISITORS ARE MOST WELCOME

The Seminar Series is free of charge. For further information please phone 9905 0733 or email [che-enquiries@monash.edu](mailto:che-enquiries@monash.edu)

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