

Centre For Health Economics Seminar Series 2016

SUBJECTIVE COMPLETION BELIEFS AND THE DEMAND FOR POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION

Presenter: Johannes S. Kunz, University of Zurich
Date: Wednesday 23 November, 2016
Time: 12.00pm -1.00pm
Venue: RB Scotton Room
Centre for Health Economics



Abstract:

The outcome of pursuing an upper or post-secondary education degree is uncertain. A student might not complete a chosen degree for a number of reasons, such as insufficient academic preparation or financial constraints. Thus, when considering whether to invest in post-secondary education, students must factor their probability of completing the degree into their decision. We study the role of this uncertainty in education choices using representative survey data from Germany. Students' subjective beliefs about the probability of completing a post-secondary education were elicited prior to them finishing their secondary education. We relate these subjective completion probabilities to students' subsequent education choices and outcomes. We find that these early beliefs are predictive of intentions to invest in education, actual subsequent investments in education, and degree completion. A structural choice model of sequential investment further reveals that the association between completion beliefs and investment choices is strongest for students with low academic skills and low preferences for post-secondary education.

Presenter:

Johannes Kunz is a Post-Doctoral Fellow at the Department of Economics of the University of Zurich, Switzerland and is currently visiting the Department of Economics and the Melbourne Institute at The University of Melbourne.

Johannes's research interests centre around microeconometrics and applied microeconomics. He has worked on topics in economics of education, healthcare choices, and human capital investments. He is particularly interested in individuals' decision making and choice modelling. He is currently working on non-linear panel data estimation with fixed effect, excess unobserved heterogeneity in hospital's quality, and changes in the skill composition of international immigrants. Johannes holds a PhD in Economics (2016) from the University of Zurich, Switzerland.

VISITORS ARE MOST WELCOME

The Seminar Series is free of charge. For further information please phone 9905 0733 or email che-enquiries@monash.edu

Over 25 Years of Health Economics at Monash University