

Centre For Health Economics Seminar Series 2016

THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN OBESITY AND SELF-ESTEEM: LONGITUDINAL EVIDENCE FROM AUSTRALIAN ADULTS

Presenter: Prof Paul Frijters, UQ
Date: Wednesday 1 June 2016
Time: 12.00pm -1.00pm
Venue: RB Scotton Room
Centre for Health Economics
Level 2, 15 Innovation Walk
Monash University, Clayton



Abstract:

We examine whether low self-esteem increases the risk of obesity in a panel of Australian adults. To address the problem of endogeneity, we look at weight changes following exogenous shocks to self-esteem, such as the unexpected death of friends and family members. We find that negative shocks adversely affect self-esteem, in turn leading to large increases in weight via increased food consumption and reduced exercise. The effects of the negative shocks were found to be much larger for individuals who are more exposed to modern media, which we suggest is driven by unfavourable comparisons with the individuals depicted in magazines and online.

Presenter:

Paul is a Professor of Economics at the University of Queensland, as well as an Adjunct Professor of the Research School of Economics at the Australian National University. His CV includes numerous publications in top economic journals, journalistic articles in the Australian and other newspapers, and media interviews with the Economist, and the Wall Street Journal (among others). He was also voted Australia's best economist under 40 in 2009. He is the author of the book "An Economic Theory of Greed, Love, Groups, and Networks" as well as contributing to several textbooks.

VISITORS ARE MOST WELCOME

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