Syllabus: The Economics of Discrimination

Universität Mannheim, Blockseminar, Frühjahr 2012
Prof. Dr. Andrea Weber

Termine:
Einführung: Freitag, 17.02.2012, 09:00 bis 12:00
Blockseminar I: Fr. 09.03.2012, 09:00 bis 18:00
Blockseminar II: Sa. 10.03.2012, 09:00 bis 18:00

Course Overview and Objectives
Not all difference results from discrimination. Not all discrimination results in observable differences. This course will focus on issues of difference and discrimination associated with race, gender, nation of birth, or age focusing particularly on the labor market. We will discuss economic theories that explain discrimination and how econometrics is used to address questions of discrimination.

Enrollment and Course Website:
Please register for the seminar at the Studierendenportal https://portal.uni-mannheim.de/
Registered students can also access the ILIAS webpage for the seminar, where you find the program and literature references.

Contact and Office Hours
Professor Andrea Weber, L7, 3-5, Room 4.20, a.weber@uni-mannheim.de
Office hours: Tuesday 14:00 – 15:00.
Appointment: if you cannot make the office hours, send an email and request an appointment

Course Requirements
At the introductory meeting, each student selects one of the suggested topics (below) and prepares a 30 minutes presentation based on the literature references and the material covered in the introduction.
In addition, each student selects a second topic for which she/he prepares a 5 minute discussion, based on a colleague's presentation.
During the seminar blocks a time slot of 45 minutes is assigned to each topic to allow for general discussion as well.
Presentation slides have to be sent to Andrea Weber and the respective discussant of the presentation by March 7 at latest.
After the seminar each students hands in a written report of his/her topic summarizing the presentation and comments from the discussion (maximum 5 pages).
Language: Presentations and written reports can be either in English or German.
**Course Grading**
Seminar presentation (60%), oral performance in presentation and discussion (10%), Written summary (30%).

**Program:**

Introduction: Friday 17.2. (Andrea Weber)

**How do economists think about discrimination? Economic theories of discrimination**
George J. Borjas, Labor Economics (Irwin McGraw Hill), Chapter 10

**List of Topics with literature references (9.3. and 10.3.)**

1. **Who are economists? Status of minority groups in the economics profession**

6. **Evidence of Discrimination: Audit Studies**

7. **Evidence of Discrimination: Laboratory and field experiments**

2. **Gender wage differences in Germany and in international comparison**

3. **Discrimination in the labor market: Gender differences in top positions**
Holst, E., and A. Busch. "Der "Gender Pay Gap" in Führungspositionen der Privatwirtschaft in Deutschland," Deutsches Institut für Wirtschaftsforschung (DIW), SOEPpapers 169, 2009


4. Discrimination in the labor market: Discrimination and beauty


5. Market competition and discrimination


8. Discrimination in markets other than the labor market: Education


9. Discrimination in markets other than the labor market: Crime


http://www.journals.uchicago.edu/doi/abs/10.1086/425597


10. Discrimination in markets other than the labor market: Savings and Wealth


Additional Literature:


Crime