

Health Economics and Policy

Annual Report 2017



Health Economics and Policy (HEP) Division

2017 Annual Report of activity

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1. The Health Economics and Policy (HEP) division

1.1. The team

Simone Ghislandi, Professor of Health Economics, Head of Division/Senior Scientist

Simone Ghislandi is a Senior Scientist at the Health Economics and Policy Division at the Department of Socioeconomics of WU (Vienna University of Business and Economics). He holds a degree in Economics from Bocconi University, an MPhil and a DPhil in Economics from the University of Oxford. He joined the WU from the Department of Policy Analysis and Public Management of the University of Bocconi. He is also a member of IIASA (Vienna), of the Centre of Health Economics and Management (CERGAS, Milan) and of the Carlo F. Dondena Centre for Research on Social Dynamics and Public Policy (Milan).

His research focuses on issues related to the ex-ante and ex-post analysis of health policies and interventions, on the socioeconomics of health and well-being and on the regulation of the pharmaceutical industry. On these topics, he has published in a variety of international economics, health policy and public health journals.

Mujaheed Shaikh, Assistant Professor, HEP division

Mujaheed joined the Health Economics and Policy Division of Vienna University of Economics and Business as an Assistant Professor (non-tenure track) in July 2016. He completed his MSc in International Health Management with a distinction from Imperial College London in 2012 and his PhD in Health Economics from Frankfurt School of Finance and Management, Germany in 2016.

His research is in the field of health economics and management with a particular focus on the impact of different types of health spending such as pharmaceutical expenditures on health and economic outcomes. He also has a keen interest in policy related issues such as inequity in malaria funding, social determinants of health system responsiveness, inequity in healthcare utilization etc. in developing countries. Some of his research work also relates to organizational changes in hospitals and its effect on productivity.

Daniela Weber, Assistant Professor, HEP division

Daniela Weber is a mathematician and statistician. She joined the Health Economics and Policy Division at the Vienna University of Economics and Business in fall 2016. She is also a research scholar within the World Population Program at the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis, Laxenburg. Dr. Weber graduated in technical mathematics at the Vienna University of Technology in 2005 and in 2012 she graduated in statistics at the University of Vienna. She completed her PhD at the Vienna University of Economics and Business in 2015 with the dissertation entitled "An International Perspective on Aging and Cognitive Decline".

Her research focuses on aging and health, whereas the international perspective is of particular interest to her. Next to societal determinants of cognitive and physical aging such as differential effects of societal living conditions on men's and women's cognitive functioning, she is also interested in behavioral and socioeconomic determinants.

Anna-Theresa Renner, PhD student, HEP division

Anna-Theresa Renner joined the Health Economics and Policy Division at the Vienna University of Economics and Business in fall 2016 as a Doctorate student. Her dissertation is using administrative data to investigate geographical and socioeconomic inequalities in the access to primary healthcare, focussing in particular on Austria. Anna holds a Master of Science in Health Economics Policy and Law from Erasmus University (The Netherlands) and a Master in Economics (Mag.rer.soc.oec) from the Department of Economics of the University of Vienna. Before joining the Division, Anna was a researcher at the Austrian Public Health Institute, Department for Health Economics (Gesundheit Österreich GmbH).

The research objective of the first paper of her dissertation is the exploration of the drivers of regional variations in avoidable hospitalisation. The analysis is based on a panel data set containing information about hospitalisation rates, socioeconomic characteristics, demographics, and data on health care provision in the in- and outpatient sector of the Austrian political districts. The second paper is concerned with the associations between provision and utilisation of primary health care. A focus is put on social distributions by utilizing and combining administrative, grid and GIS data.

Tina Radler, Administrative Assistant, HEP Division

Tina has a Master's degree in Theater, Film and Media (Mag.phil.) from the University of Vienna. She arrived at HEP in February 2016. She is HEP's eyes and ears when it comes to administrative duties, but she also follows research projects from a close perspective and developed the HEP website. Before joining HEP, she has worked as an assistant for an orthopaedic surgeon in Vienna and in the HR Department of a publicly traded real estate company. Tina is familiar with standard computer packages and with film-editing and web-editing programs. Her mother tongue is German, she's perfectly fluent in English and she will soon be fluent in French too.

For more information and for the long-version CVs of all the members, please visit the HEP website:

<https://www.wu.ac.at/healtheconomy/>

1.2. Timeline of hiring activity

Hiring high level and promising candidates for the team was considered a priority.

- Spring:
 - Agreement on medium and longer-term funding perspectives for a full professor of Health Economics at WU between WU and sponsors (HVB, WiG, VAMED)
- May 2017
 - Letter of intent (HVB)
 - identification of potential peer reviewers (task: assessment of applications in the recruitment process)
- June 2017
 - Draft of job announcement drafted and discussed in all relevant bodies of WU
 - WU Senate supports job announcement as suggested by the rector (28.06.2017)
 - **WU Senate appoints** of members of the **search committee and external peer reviewers** (28.6.2017)
- July 2017
 - Letter of intent (WiG)
 - First meeting of the search committee (18. July)
 - **Call for applications** "Full Professor of Health Economics & 26 July)" published/posted

Die Zeit online: zeit.de., academics.de, academics.com

Academic Keys

BizSchooljobs (AASCB)

American Society of Health Economics

Ausschreibungsdienst des Dt. HVB

Dachverbände der European Association of Health Economics: French HE Assoc., Spanish HE Assoc.,

Portuguese HE Assoc., Health Economics Study Group UK, Swiss HE Assoc., Italian HE Assoc. Swedish

HE Assoc., Finnish HE Assoc., Dutch Flemish HE Assoc.

Dggö Deutsche Gesellschaft für Gesundheitsökonomik

European Assoc. of Health Economics

Euraxess

European Social Policy List

Verteilerliste: female@jku.at

HEN Health Economics Network (SSRN)

iHEA – International Health Economics Assoc.

Inomics Network

Jobs.ac.uk

JOE – Job Openings for Economists (American Economics Association)

NÖG Nationalökonomische Gesellschaft

Network for European Social Policy Analysis ESPAnet

Times Higher Education

Research Gate

Verein für Sozialpolitik

Efas Ökonominnen-Netzwerk

- August 2017
- September 2017
 - **Deadline for applications:** 20 September
 - Second meeting of the search committee (26 September); screening of applications and ruling out candidates who clearly miss core criteria of the job announcement (e.g. criteria pertaining to formal qualification and the research field).
 - Remaining applications sent to independent, international peer reviewers
- October 2017
 - Completion of **first peer assessment** of applications (brief written assessments)
- November 2017
 - Third meeting of the search committee (9 November): **shortlisting candidates to be invited** for a candidate lecture (discussion guided by external reviews)
 - Start of second peer review (comparative assessment of remaining candidates)
 - Preparation of candidate lectures (interview guideline, information letters to candidates, analysis of writing samples, schedule for candidates' visits)
 - Shortlisted applicants are invited to give candidate lectures in December
- December 2017
 - 18 to 21 December: **Candidate lectures**
 - Completion of **second peer review** (comparative written assessment)
- Outlook: January 2018
 - Final meeting of the search committee: Decision on shortlist of candidates to be presented to the rector; start of contract negotiations between rector and shortlisted candidate/s

2. Teaching and supervision

The diffusion of a culture of health economics and policy in the Viennese and Austrian context must pass through a serious definition of a consistent academic curriculum for undergraduate and graduate students.

At full capacity, HEP will be in charge of 16 hours of teaching per week. This represents a heavy workload that in these early stages could not be spent entirely on new courses directly related to health economics topics. New courses must indeed be gradually introduced in order to fit the purposes and the objectives of ongoing programmes, especially within the Department of Socioeconomics.

Here we outline the courses defined and taught in 2017 by HEP members.

Courses	Program	Members of the group teaching	Content	Period
Economic and Social Policy	Master in Economics	Simone Ghislandi	<i>Deals with methods and theory of program evaluation in health economics and selected social policy areas</i>	SS2017
Econometrics and Empirical Economic Research	Master in Economics	Mujaheed Shaikh	<i>Deals with a wide range of intermediate-to-advanced methods in econometrics</i>	SS2017
ZuWi II: Challenges in Social Sustainability: Inequalities, Poverty and Health	Bachelor	Simone Ghislandi Mujaheed Shaikh	<i>Focus on the key concepts of the economics and sociology of health and education</i>	SS2017
Selected Research Areas in Socioeconomics	Bachelor	Simone Ghislandi Daniela Weber	<i>Focus on migration, definition and challenges</i>	SS2017
Applied Microeconomics	Bachelor	Mujaheed Shaikh	<i>Focus on supply and demand, market equilibrium and strategic behavior</i>	SS2017 WS2017/18
Interdisciplinary Socio-Economic Research Project I: Lifelong Learning in an Ageing Knowledge Economy (Quantitative Methods)	Master in Socioeconomics	Daniela Weber	<i>Impact of Lifelong learning on ageing population</i>	WS2017/18
Foundations of Health Economics and Health Management	Bachelor	Mujaheed Shaikh Anna-Theresa Renner	<i>Basic course in Health Economics</i>	SS2017 WS2017/18
The Socioeconomics of health and education	Bachelor	Daniela Weber Anna-Theresa Renner	<i>Investigates the relation between income, employment, education and health</i>	WS2017/18
Applied Socio-Economic Theories and Methods II	Master in Socioeconomics	Daniela Weber Mujaheed Shaikh	<i>Relationship between socioeconomics and health</i>	WS2017/18

SS2017: 12 hours

WS2017/18: 11 hours

2.1. Completed and ongoing supervised theses in 2017

List of completed and ongoing supervised theses:

- Schnur Michael: Impact of trade agreements and patent protection on access to essential medicines in developing countries, Bachelor thesis
- Renner Anna-Theresa: Eine Erforschung der sozioökonomischen Gradienten über den Zugang zu primärer Gesundheitsversorgung, PhD Thesis (ongoing)
- Speiser Julia: Der österreichische Arbeitsmarkt und die alternde Bevölkerung, Bachelor thesis
- Zeitlberger Michael: Standardisierung von Krankenhausprozessen als effiziente Lösung für den durch Ökonomisierung entstandenen Kostendruck, Bachelor thesis
- Niemann Sophie: What are the causes for the high amount of people with overweight in a non-industrial country based on the case of The Bahamas?, Bachelor thesis
- Kreutzer Pia: Pharmaceutical Regulation in Europe – Development and Effects for Austria, Bachelor thesis (ongoing)
- Speigner-Haxhijaj Marlene: Patient Reported Outcomes Measurements in Use - patients and clinicians view on implementing PROMs in Austria, Masters thesis (ongoing)
- Stofa György: Energy consumption of the auto industry and human health outcomes, Bachelor thesis (ongoing)
- Miriam Hruzova: Retirement and Political inclination in Europe: Evidence from the SHARE survey, Master thesis (ongoing)
- Halbig Melissa: Wo sich Ärzte niederlassen - Zur Standortentscheidung von AllgemeinmedizinerInnen in Österreich, Master Thesis (ongoing)

3. Research

3.1. International publications in 2017

The list of publications published, accepted for publication, in submission or about to be submitted in 2017 by the members of HEP is the following:

- Sergei Scherbov and Daniela **Weber**. Future trends in the prevalence of severe activity limitations among older adults in Europe: a cross-national population study using EU-SILC. *BMJ Open*
- Daniela **Weber**, Serhiy Dekhtyar, and Agneta Herlitz. The Flynn effect in Europe – effects of sex and region. *Intelligence*, 60(1):39-45
- Herlitz Agneta, Dekhtyar Serhiy, Asperholm Martin, and **Weber** Daniela "Gender differences in memory and cognition". In: *Encyclopedia of Geropsychology*. Springer, Singapore, pp. 935-941. ISBN 978-981-287-081-0
- Mueller, T & **Shaikh**, M. Your retirement and my health behavior: Evidence on intra-household retirement externalities from a fuzzy regression discontinuity design. *Journal of Health Economics*. 57: pp 45-59.
- Miraldo, M., **Shaikh**, M., Barrenho, E. Atun, R. et al. Funding for Malaria control 2006-2010: Assessing vertical and horizontal equity. *Forthcoming BMJ Global Health*, <http://dx.doi.org/10.1136/bmjgh-2017-000496>
- Gandjour, A. & **Shaikh**, M. Pharmaceutical expenditure and GDP: Evidence on simultaneous effects from an instrumental variable approach. *Revise and Resubmit, Health Economics*
- S.Dekhtyarad, D.**Weber**, J.Helgertz, A.Herlitz. Sex differences in academic strengths contribute to gender segregation in education and occupation: A longitudinal examination of 167,776 individuals. *Intelligence*

3.2. Projects

- **Intergenerational transmission of health and well-being: The role of psychological well-being as a mediator for the socioeconomic gradient.**

The project we propose aims to follow individual well-being and health over the early stage of life and trace out their consequences on future outcomes. Considering parents and family health and socioeconomic background at birth and genetics as the starting conditions of a dynamic system, we take a life course perspective and analyse the mechanisms through which the socioeconomic dimension can influence the pathways of child development. Our approach considers the psychological well-being as a socioeconomic-related mediating factor that exerts its influence since the early stages of one's life, in turn affecting the development pathways. HEP will gain access to the Avon Longitudinal Study of Parents and Children (ALSPAC), a unique dataset following more than 14,000 children since before they are born until they are 20 years old and providing important genetic, health and behavioral information. The project has already received the approval of the ALSPAC committee and data will be available soon (1400 variables + 300 genes).

HEP researchers involved:

Simone Ghislandi, Anna-Theresa Renner, Mujaheed Shaikh, Daniela Weber

- **Analysis of the association between outpatient physician supply and health care utilisation in Austria**

The proposed research project will focus on the utilisation of outpatient services in Austria and the drivers of variations in the frequency of outpatient contacts. We will investigate whether a patient's utilisation (proxied by the number of eCard contacts), and hence his/her resource use, is driven by the level of regional physician supply and which role other factors, such as sociodemographic characteristics of the region and the socioeconomic status of the patient, play. The findings of this analysis will add to the evidence base for policies that aim to achieve efficient distribution of services and resources in the Austrian outpatient health care sector.

HEP researchers involved:

Anna-Theresa Renner

- **Generic vs Branded Prescription in Austria: The Role of Physicians, Patients, and Pharmacies**

The present project focusses on the demand side of the pharmaceutical market, where patient, physicians, and, to a lesser extent, pharmacies, interact and determine prescription patterns and behaviors. The purpose of this project is two-fold. First of all, we will analyse the variation of prescription patterns across doctors (and regions), identifying the extent to which different doctors' prescription behaviours can affect market share of generics and can drive the demand towards more expensive products. Second, we will assess the role that patients and pharmacies have in the prescription/consumption decisions. This is important because if patients' preferences actually play a role in determining the demand for a pharmaceutical product, then any regulation addressing patient's incentives can be expected to affect market shares. Formally, this step will require an analysis of the variance of the prescription behaviours across doctors and patients based on existing prescription patterns data.

HEP researchers involved:

Simone Ghislandi, Mujaheed Shaikh

- **A spatial panel data analysis of the socioeconomic gradient of avoidable hospitalisations in Austria (ongoing research presented at numerous conferences)**

This research project aims at investigating the relationship between a list of medical conditions for which hospitalisations are considered avoidable by high-quality primary health care and socioeconomic characteristics of the population. At the same time, the role of health care supply in mediating this relationship is analysed while controlling for demographic characteristics. To do so a panel data set of hospitalisations in Austria on the level of the political districts is exploited. Different econometric models that take spatial dependencies between the districts into account, such as spatial error, spatial autoregressive and spatial durbin (error) models, are estimated and tested.

HEP researchers involved:

Anna-Theresa Renner

- **Analysis of data examining utilisation of inpatient healthcare services in Austria, including regional variations for the London School of Economics' report on the Austrian social security system**

A comparative study of hospitalisation rates in Austria was carried out as part of a study by the London School of Economics. Data from the OECD and Eurostat databases were used for a descriptive analysis of health care resources and health care utilization comparing Austria to other European countries. Furthermore, regional data on hospitalisations and survey data from the European Health Interview Survey were deployed to highlight regional patterns and a socioeconomic gradient in health care utilisation.

HEP researchers involved:

Anna-Theresa Renner

3.3. Conferences

The group is active in building and maintaining an international network. Conferences, workshops and seminars attended in 2017:

Mag. Anna-Theresa Renner, MSc.

- International Health Policy Conference at the London School of Economics, February 16 - 19;
Oral presentation: Regional variations in avoidable hospitalisations: A spatial analysis on access and provision to health care
- Winter Seminar of the German Speaking Section of the European Regional Science Association in Spital am Pyhrn, February 18 - 24;
Oral presentation: Regional variations in avoidable hospitalisations: A spatial analysis on access and provision to health care
- Summer School of the European Regional Science Association in Lesbos, Greece, July 10 - 17;
Oral presentation: A spatial panel data analysis of the socioeconomic gradient of avoidable hospitalisations in Austria
- Vienna Health Care Lectures, Vienna, Sept 4-6 - participation
- Jahrestagung des Vereins für Socialpolitik, Vienna, Sept 4 - 7 - participation
- 22nd Annual Conference of the Italian Health Economics Association (AIES) in Pavia, Italy, October 5 - 6;
Oral presentation: A spatial panel data analysis of the socioeconomic gradient of avoidable hospitalisations in Austria
- 28th IUSSP International Population Conference in Cape Town, South Africa, October 29 - November 4;
Poster presentation: A spatial panel analysis of the socioeconomic gradient of avoidable hospital admissions
- Austrian Health Economics Association, Vienna, Nov 24
Oral presentation: A spatial panel data analysis of the socioeconomic gradient of avoidable hospitalisations in Austria

DI Mag. Dr. Daniela Weber

- 6. Berliner Demografie-Forum February 15 – 16, Berlin – participation
- 6th Lindau Meeting on Economic Sciences August 22 – 26, Lindau – participation
- Vienna Health Care Lectures, Vienna, Sept 4-6 – participation
- Jahrestagung der DGD und der Deutschen Statistischen Gesellschaft (DStatG) September 19 – 22, Rostock - invited talk
- 5th International Workshop on the Socio-Economics of Ageing, October 27, Lisbon – talk
- Russian Presidential Academy of National Economy and Public Administration under the President of the Russian Federation (RANEPA) (Invited talk & stay) - organised by research group: International Laboratory on Demography and Human Capital, October 8-14

Dr. Mujaheed Shaikh

- International Health Economics Association Conference, Boston – oral presentation
Papers: 1) The Impact of Organizational Change on Firm Efficiency: Evidence from the Healthcare Sector
2) Competition, Aspirations, and Organizational Change: Evidence from the English NHS
- 15ª Conferência Nacional de Economia da Saúde | APES, October 11-13 – oral presentation
Papers: 1) Retirement and Health Plan Choices: Evidence from Swiss Administrative Data
- Jahrestagung des Vereins für Socialpolitik, Vienna, Sept 4-7 – participation
- Austrian Health Economics Association, Vienna, Nov 24 – oral presentation
Papers: 1) The Impact of Organizational Change on Firm Efficiency: Evidence from the Healthcare Sector

INFOS AND CONTACT

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