

Date Wednesday 3 September 2014, 13:00 to 14:00
Location Department of Economics, University of Copenhagen, CSS building 26, large
 seminar room, 2nd floor (room 26.2.21)
Presenter Mette Ejrnæs, University of Copenhagen

Should I Stay or Should I Go: Peer Effects in Absenteeism

ABSTRACT

In this paper, we investigate if peer effects exist in illegal absenteeism among pupils in compulsory school. We use a new data set collected at schools in Copenhagen and Frederiksberg municipalities that contains detail information on absenteeism for each student. Using a novel approach to identify peer effects, we show that peer absenteeism has a causal effect on own absenteeism in compulsory school. We also find a distinct pattern for peer effects among girls and boys. Furthermore, we find that the peer effects are heterogeneous across the distribution of absenteeism.