

Swiss Leading House  
Economics of Education · Firm Behaviour · Training Policies

International Conference on Economics of Education,  
Firm Behaviour and Training Policies  
25<sup>th</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup> June 2008, University of Zurich, Switzerland



Universität Zürich

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## Main Conference – Programme Overview

**Session Locations: all Sessions are in the Conference Location RAK,  
Rämistrasse 73, 8001 Zürich**

Plenary Sessions	E 8
Parallel Sessions (A1, B3, C3, D1, E3, F1)	E 8
Parallel Sessions (A3, B1, C2, D2, E2, F2)	E 7
Parallel Sessions (A2, B2, C1, D3, E1, F3)	E 6

### Thursday, June 26, 2008

08:00-08:15	Registration and Welcome Coffee
08:15-08:40	Welcome Session
08:40-09:30	Plenary Session 1
09:30-09:35	Short Break
09:35-11:05	Parallel Session A
11:05-11:30	Coffee Break
11:30-13:00	Parallel Session B
13:00-14:30	Lunch Break
14:30-16:00	Parallel Session C
16:00-16:25	Coffee Break
16:25-17:25	Parallel Session D
17:25-17:30	Short Break
17:30-18:20	Plenary Session 2
18:25-19:55	Guided Tour of Zurich
20:00	Conference Dinner at the Restaurant Linde Oberstrass

### Friday, June 27, 2008

09:00-09:50	Plenary Session 3
09:50-09:55	Short Break
09:55-10:55	Parallel Session E
10:55-11:20	Coffee Break
11:20-12:50	Parallel Session F
12:50-12:55	Short Break
12:55-13:10	Closing

## Conference Programme

### Thursday, June 26, 2008

08:00-08:15 **Registration and Welcome Coffee**

08:15-08:40 **Welcome Session** **Room E 8**

*Chair:* Uschi Backes-Gellner and Stefan C. Wolter

Egon Franck, Designated Vice-President of the University and Director of the Institute for Strategy and Business Economics

Ursula Renold, Director of the Swiss Federal Office for Professional Education and Technology (OPET)

Ludger Wößmann, CESifo Group Munich, Chairman of the Advisory Board of the Swiss Leading House

Uschi Backes-Gellner and Stefan C. Wolter, Directors of the Swiss Leading House

08:40-09:30 **Plenary Session 1:** **Room E 8**

*Chair:* Stephen Machin, University College London, Member of the Advisory Board

JOOP HARTOG, University of Amsterdam  
On Schooling and Risk

09:30-09:35 **Short Break**

09:35-11:05 **Parallel Session A**

**A1: Globalization, Technological Change and Training** **Room E 8**

*Chair:* ARDIANA GASHI

HANS GERSBACH, Armin Schmutzler  
The Effects of Globalization on Worker Training

XUEDA SONG  
The Effects of Technological Change on Schooling and Training Human Capital

ARDIANA GASHI, Geoff Pugh, Nick Adnett  
Technological Change and Employer-Provided Training: Evidence from German Establishments

**A2: Educational and Labor Market Careers** **Room E 6**

*Chair:* JÜRIG SCHWERI

SIMONE TUOR, Uschi Backes-Gellner  
Rates of Return and Risk-Return Trade-Offs to Different Educational Paths: Vocational, Academic and Mixed

BARBARA MÜLLER, Jürg Schweri  
Occupational Mobility after Apprenticeship in Switzerland

**A3: Decision to Train Apprentices** **Room E 7**

*Chair:* THOMAS ZWICK

SPYROS ARVANITIS, Tobias Stucki  
Training Propensity of Start-ups in Switzerland – A Study Based on Data for the Start-up Cohort 1996-97

HANS DIETRICH  
Institutional Effects of Apprenticeship Training on Employment Success in Germany

Jens Mohrenweiser, THOMAS ZWICK  
Why Do Firms Train Apprentices? The Net Cost Puzzle Reconsidered

11:05-11:30 **Coffee Break**  
1<sup>st</sup> Floor, Conference Building RAK

11:30-13:00 **Parallel Session B**

**B1: Subsidization of Training**

**Room E 7**

*Chair:* STEFAN C. WOLTER

CECILIE DOHLMANN WEATHERALL

Does Subsidized Adult Apprenticeship Improve the Aggregate Level of Education?

KARSTEN ALBÆK

Public Policy to Further Youth Training – Evidence from the Danish Apprenticeship System, 1931-2002

DOLORES MESSER, Stefan C. Wolter

Adult Education Vouchers: First Results from a Large-Scale Field Experiment

**B2: Education Decisions**

**Room E 6**

*Chair:* DONATA BESSEY

RAFAEL LALIVE, MARIA A. CATTANEO

Social Interactions and Schooling Decisions

MIKA MALIRANTA, Satu Nurmi, Hanna Virtanen

It Takes Three to Tango in Employment: Matching Vocational Education Organisations, Students and Companies in Labour Markets

DONATA BESSEY, Uschi Backes-Gellner

Premature Apprenticeship Terminations: An Economic Analysis

**B3: Return to Training for Firms**

**Room E 8**

*Chair:* BENOIT DOSTIE

STEFAN BAUERNSCHUSTER, Oliver Falck, Stephan Heblich

The Impact of Continuous Training on a Firm's Innovations

Said Hanchane, AUDREY DUMAS

How Does Investment in Job-Training Increase the Performances of Moroccan Firms?

BENOIT DOSTIE

Are There Any Returns to Firm-Sponsored Training? Productivity and Beyond.

13:00-14:30 **Lunch Break**

ETH Dozentenfoyer, Rämistrasse 101 (Next Building), Floor F

14:30-16:00 **Parallel Session C**

**C1: Skill Formation Over the Lifecycle**

**Room E 6**

*Chair:* SIMON JANSSEN

Friedhelm Pfeiffer, KARSTEN REUSS

Age-Dependent Skill Formation and Returns to Education

Sophie Guthmuller, GRIT MUEHLER

How to Train an Aging Workforce? Evidence from Company Data

SIMON JANSSEN, Uschi Backes-Gellner

Vintage Effects and Skill Obsolescence of German Apprentices

**C2: Unemployment and Training**

**Room E 7**

*Chair:* ANDRI CHASSAMBOULLI

GABRIELE SOMAGGIO

Willing to Train, But Not to Employ? – A Theoretical Analysis of the Unemployment after Vocational Training

ADERONKE OSIKOMINU

Is Short Training Short-Lived and Long Training Long-Lasting? A Multi-State Duration Analysis of the Dynamic Effects of Training Schemes for the Unemployed

ANDRI CHASSAMBOULLI

Cyclical Upgrading of Labor and Unemployment Differences across Skill Groups

**C3: Educational Standards and Grading**

**Room E 8**

*Chair:* MARIA DE PAOLA

KATHLEEN N. WONG

Looking Beyond Test Score Gains: State Accountability's Effect on the Differential Black-White Levels of Education Attainment and Labor Market Outcomes

ROBERTAS ZUBRICKAS

Optimal Grading

MARIA DE PAOLA, Vincenzo Scoppa

A Signalling Model of School Grades: Centralized versus Decentralized Examinations

16:00-16:25 **Coffee Break**

1<sup>st</sup> Floor, Conference Building RAK

16:25-17:25 **Parallel Session D**

**D1: Earnings Dispersion**

**Room E 8**

*Chair:* JOOP HARTOG

Said Hanchane, JACQUES SILBER

On the Link Between On-the-Job Training and Earnings Dispersion

JÜRIG SCHWERI, Joop Hartog, Stefan C. Wolter

Do Students Expect Compensation for Wage Risk?

**D2: Training in Firms**

**Room E 7**

*Chair:* ALEXANDRA RUFINI

Benoît Mahy, MÉLANIE VOLRAL

The effect of quantitative and qualitative training on labour demand in Belgium: a monopolistic competition approach

ALEXANDRA RUFINI

The Organization of Social Learning in Firms: Should it be Formal or Informal?

**D3: Entrepreneurship and Training**

**Room E 6**

*Chair:* USCHI BACKES-GELLNER

Jens Iversen, Nikolaj Malchow-Møller, ANDERS SØRENSEN

Returns to Skills in Self-Employment: Entrepreneurs as "Jack-of-all-Trades"

USCHI BACKES-GELLNER, Petra Moog

On the Impact of Vocational Training on Entrepreneurship: A Jack-of-all-Trades Explanation

17:25-17:30 **Short Break**

17:30-18:20 **Plenary Session 2**

**Room E 8**

*Chair:* Catherine Sofer, Université de Paris I, Sorbonne, Member of the Advisory Board

CHRISTIAN DUSTMANN, University College London

tba

18:25-19:55 **Guided Tour of Zurich**

Meeting Point: In Front of the Conference Building

20:00

**Conference Dinner at the Restaurant Linde Oberstrass**

Universitätsstrasse 91, Station Winkelriedstrasse (Tram N° 9 or 10)



**Friday, June 27, 2008**

09:00-09:50 **Plenary Session 3** **Room E 8**  
*Chair:* Paul Ryan, King's College London, University of London, Member of the Advisory Board  
EDWARD P. LAZEAR, Council of Economic Advisors and Stanford University  
tba

09:50-09:55 **Short Break**

09:55-10:55 **Parallel Session E**

**E1: Training and Mobility** **Room E 6**  
*Chair:* SAMUEL MUEHLEMANN

Uschi Backes-Gellner, JOHANNES MURE, Regula Geel  
The Skill-Weights Approach on Firm Specific Human Capital: Empirical Results for Germany

SAMUEL MUEHLEMANN  
Firm-Sponsored Training and Poaching Externalities in Regional Labor Markets

**E2: Costs and Benefits of Apprenticeship Training** **Room E 7**  
*Chair:* KATHRIN GOEGGEL

REGINA DIONISIUS, Samuel Muehlemann, Harald Pfeifer, Günter Walden, FELIX WENZELMANN, Stefan C. Wolter  
Costs and Benefit of Apprenticeship Training: A Comparison of Germany and Switzerland

KATHRIN GOEGGEL, Thomas Zwick  
Net Costs of Apprenticeship Training? New Evidence on the Basis of Wage Markups after Training in Germany

**E3: Returns to Schooling** **Room E 8**  
*Chair:* CYRIL PASCHE

Kathy Bertschi, MARIA A. CATTANEO, Stefan C. Wolter  
What Happened to the PISA 2000 Participants Five Years Later?

CYRIL PASCHE  
What Is It about Schooling that the Labor Market Rewards? The Components of the Return to Schooling

10:55-11:20 **Coffee Break**  
1<sup>st</sup> Floor, Conference Building RAK

11:20-12:50 **Parallel Session F**

**F1: Competition and Training**

**Room E 8**

*Chair:* ARMIN SCHMUTZLER

Andrea Bassanini, GIORGIO BRUNELLO  
Barriers to Entry, Deregulation and Workplace Training

Hans Gersbach, ARMIN SCHMUTZLER  
Product Markets and Industry-Specific Training

KATJA GOERLITZ, Joel Stiebale  
Does Product Market Competition Decrease Employers' Training  
Investments? Evidence from German Establishment Panel Data

**F2: Training of Older Workers**

**Room E 7**

*Chair:* RAYMOND MONTIZAAN

DIDIER FOUARGE, Trudie Schils  
Participation in Training and Its Effect on the Decision to Retire Early

RAYMOND MONTIZAAN, Frank Cörvers, Andries de Grip  
The Effects of Pension Rights and Retirement Age on Training Participation:  
Evidence from a Natural Experiment

**F3: Training in Firms**

**Room E 6**

*Chair:* HARALD PFEIFER

LAIA CASTANY  
The Role of Firm Size in Training Provision Decisions: the Spanish Case

GANNA VAKHITOVA  
What Do We Know About Firm-Paid General Training? The Case of  
Microsoft Certification

HARALD PFEIFER  
Train to Gain - The Benefits of Employee-Financed Training in Germany

12:50-12:55 **Short Break**

12:55-13:10 **Closing**

**Room E 8**

Uschi Backes-Gellner and Stefan C. Wolter, Directors of the Swiss Leading  
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The Swiss Leading House on “Economics of Education, Firm Behaviour and Training Policies”.  
A Research Programme of the Federal Office for Professional Education and Technology



Universität Zürich

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