

Swiss Leading House VPET-ECON

A Research Center on the Economics of Education, Firm Behavior and Training Policies

Second International Leading House Conference on the
“Economics of Vocational Education and Training”

Program 2024

Wednesday, June 12

16:30-17:00 *Registration – Room KOL-G-210*

17:00-17.10 *Welcome and Conference Opening – Lecture Hall KOL-G-217*

Uschi Backes-Gellner and Stefan C. Wolter, Co-Directors of the Leading House VPET-ECON

17:10-18:00 *Keynote Lecture I – Lecture Hall KOL-G-217*

Chair: Uschi Backes-Gellner

Hanna Virtanen, ETLA Economic Research, Finland

Effects of Vocational Education on the Labor Market and Beyond

19:00 *Get-Together Dinner – Restaurant Linde Oberstrass, Universitätstrasse 91, 8006 Zürich*

Thursday, June 13

09:00-10:30 Panel Session A

Session A1: Individuals' Beliefs and Training Preferences – Room KOL-G-212

Session Chair: Simon Janssen

Anna-Lena Wittich, Maastricht University

The automation training gap: the role of workers' automation (mis)perceptions

Christian Gschwendt, University of Bern & Swiss Leading House VPET-ECON

How scary is the risk of automation? Evidence from a large survey experiment

Hanna Brosch, Technical University of Munich

Worker beliefs about firm training

Session A2: Determinants of Occupational Choices – Room KOL-G-220

Session Chair: Hans-Dieter Gerner

Claudio Schilter, University of Bern & Swiss Leading House VPET-ECON

How selectivity shapes selection

Patrick Lehnert, University of Zurich & Swiss Leading House VPET-ECON

Environmental awareness and occupational choices of adolescents

Daniel Goller, University of Bern & Swiss Leading House VPET-ECON

“This time it's different”: Generative artificial intelligence and occupational choice

Session A3: Returns to Vocational Education and Training – Room KOL-H-321

Session Chair: Maddalena Davoli

Samuel Lüthi, SKBF

Classroom versus workbench

Laura Brunner, University of Zurich & Swiss Leading House VPET-ECON

Financial and economic literacy: Investigating the role of vocational vs. general education

Elena Villar, Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore

Trimming inefficiencies while rewarding excellence: Labour market returns to tertiary vocational education and the role of course quality

10:30-11:00 *Coffee Break – KOL-G-217 Catering Area*

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11:00-12:30 Panel Session B

Session B1: The Role of Economic Crises and Macroeconomic Conditions – Room KOL-G-212

Session Chair: Hubert Ertl

Andreas Leibing, TU Dresden & DIW Berlin

Local labor markets and postsecondary education

Sandra McNally, University of Surrey

Young people, human capital investment and the Great Recession

Hans-Dieter Gerner, Ohm TH Nürnberg

Explaining the structural break of firms training behavior in the aftermath of the Great Recession in Germany – a machine learning based approach

Session B2: Firms' Training Decisions and Investments – Room KOL-G-220

Session Chair: Patrick Lehnert

Jens Mohrenweiser, Hochschule Stralsund

Firm-sponsored degree programmes

Mantej Pardesi, Maastricht University & BIBB

Productivity convergence and firm's training strategy

Patricia Palffy, University of Zurich & Swiss Leading House VPET-ECON

The importance of social and digital skills training when hiring VET workers for teams: A large-scale discrete choice experiment with recruiters

Session B3: Analysis of Reforms and Policy Programs – Room KOL-H-321

Session Chair: Guglielmo Ventura

Silke Anger, IAB & University of Bamberg

Helping high-school students in choosing their careers: Experimental evidence from a large-scale school policy in Germany

Katarina Zigova, University of Zurich & Swiss Leading House VPET-ECON

Minimum Wages and Provision of Training: The Swiss Case

12:30-14:00 Lunch Break - KOL-G-217 Catering Area

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14:00-15:30 Panel Session C

Session C1: Signals versus Quality-Assured Education and Labor Market Outcomes – Room KOL-G-212

Session Chair: Uschi Backes-Gellner

Marius Opstrup Morthorst, Aarhus University

Grade requirements in vocational education: Human capital and labor market returns for marginal students

Eric Bettinger, Stanford University

Fake diplomas, real gains: Analyzing wage increases in Brazil's labor market

Simon Janssen, Institut für Arbeitsmarkt und Berufsforschung (IAB)

Entry barriers and the labor market outcomes of incumbent workers: Evidence from a deregulation reform in the German crafts sector

Session C2: Skills and Aspirations in Vocational Education and Training – Room KOL-G-220

Session Chair: Daniel Goller

Mahdi Gholami, LMU Munich

Mastering math: A gateway to better firms and higher earnings

Anne Brenøe, University of Zurich

Math skills, perceptions of fit, and occupational choice

Arthur Sawadogo, CEREQ (Centre d'études et de recherches sur les qualifications)

Mapping educational paths: exploring the link between educational paths and young people's entrepreneurial aspirations in France

15:30-16:00 Coffee Break - KOL-G-217 Catering Area

16:00 Anniversary Event

Special sessions jointly organized with Harald Pfeifer (BIBB) and Jürg Schweri (EHB).

50th Anniversary of the Origin of Cost-Benefit Analyses of Apprenticeship Training - Aula KOL-G-201

16:00-16:15 Introduction

Uschi Backes-Gellner, Harald Pfeifer, Jürg Schweri, and Stefan C. Wolter

16:15-16:30 Keynote “The Historical Context of the Edding Commission and its Cost-Benefit Analysis of Apprenticeship Training”

Dieter Sadowski, IAAEU - University of Trier

Chair: Uschi Backes-Gellner

16:30-17:15 Keynote “Cost-Benefit-Analyses of Apprenticeship Training: Current State of Research in a German-Swiss Comparison”

Samuel Mühlemann, LMU Munich

Chair: Stefan C. Wolter

17:30 Discussion Panel “The Role of Cost-Benefit Analyses in the Context of Vocational Education Policy”

Christian Buske, Ministry of Education, Schleswig-Holstein, Germany

Rémy Hübschi, State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation, Switzerland

Harald Pfeifer, Federal Institute for Vocational Education and Training, Germany

Jürg Schweri, Swiss Federal University for Vocational Education and Training

Chair: Stefan C. Wolter

19:30 Conference Dinner – Zunfthaus zur Zimmerleuten, Limmatquai 40, 8001 Zurich

Friday, June 14

09:00-10:30 Panel Session D

Session D1: Ranks and Peers Effects in Vocational Education and Training – Room KOL-G-212

Session Chair: Jens Mohrenweiser

Kari Vea Salvanes, Institute for Social Research

Effects of programme selectivity in vocational education and training on school completion and mental health

Enzo Brox, University of Bern & Swiss Leading House VPET-ECON

Classroom rank in math and career choices

Jesper Eriksen, Copenhagen University

Peer effects in vocational education and training

Session D2: Training Programs for Labor Market Integration – Room KOL-G-220

Session Chair: Sönke Matthews

Chiara Zisler, University of Zurich & Swiss Leading House VPET-ECON

Empowering refugees and immigrants: The role of training programs and workplace-based cultural skills in labor market integration

Devendra KC, Kathmandu Metropolitan City

Enhancing employment skill, access, opportunity, and quality through training

Session D3: Special Cost-Benefit Session I: Cyclicalities and Costs and Benefits of Apprenticeship Training – Room KOL-H-321

Session Chair: Harald Pfeifer, Jürg Schweri

Thomas Bolli, Swiss Federal Institute of Technology (ETH) Zurich

The moderating effect of training costs and benefits on the cyclicalities of apprenticeship positions

Asgeir Skålholt, Nordic Institute for Studies in Innovation, Research and Education

Effects of business cycle fluctuations on the school-to-work transition for vocational students – the role of general skills

Hans Dietrich, Institut für Arbeitsmarkt und Berufsforschung (IAB)

Minimum apprentice wage effects in monopsonistic training markets

10:30-10:50 *Coffee Break - KOL-G-217 Catering Area*

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10:50-11:50 Panel Session E

Session E1: Gender Norms – Room KOL-G-212

Session Chair: Sandra McNally

Thea Zöllner, University of Bern & Swiss Leading House VPET-ECON

Are parents an obstacle to gender-atypical occupational choices?

Andreas Kuhn, Swiss Federal University for Vocational Education and Training (EHB)

Gender norms and occupational segregation: A spatial analysis of the Swiss apprenticeship market

Session E2: Artificial Intelligence and Automation – Room KOL-G-220

Session Chair: Claudio Schilter

Matthias Haslberger, University of St. Gallen

Rage against the machine? Generative AI use, threat perceptions, and policy preferences

Cäcilia Lipowski, ZEW Mannheim

No kids, no tech: How shortages of young workers hinder firm technology adoption

Session E3: Special Cost-Benefit Session II: Analyses with Linked Register and Cost-Benefit Survey Data – Room KOL-H-321

Session Chair: Harald Pfeifer, Jürg Schweri

Pontus af Burén & Jürg Schweri, Swiss Federal University for Vocational Education and Training (EHB)

Firms' training processes and their apprentices' education success

Harald Pfeifer, Federal Institute for Vocational Education and Training (BIBB)

Beggars cannot be choosers: The effect of labor market tightness on hiring standards, wages, and hiring costs

11:55-12:45 Keynote Lecture II – Lecture Hall KOL-G-217

Chair: Stefan Wolter

Pierre Cahuc, SciencePo, France

AvenirPro: Job Search Assistance for Vocational Students

12:45-13:00 Farewell