

VID Colloquium

Vienna Institute of Demography
Welthandelsplatz 2 / Level 2
Nathan Keyfitz Library
1020 Vienna

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Tuesday, 17. April 2018
11:00-12:00

"The Motherhood Wage Penalty: a Meta-Analysis"

Mothers tend to receive lower wages than comparable childless women. This 'motherhood wage gap' has been reported in numerous studies. We summarize the existing empirical evidence on this topic using meta-analysis and test for several mechanisms which can be responsible for the persistence of the wage gap. Based on 234 wage effects of having exactly one child and 282 wage effects of the total number of children, we find an average motherhood wage gap of around 3.6%. The gaps are mostly explained by the loss of mothers' human capital during career-related breaks and adjustments in working time and other job characteristics after the childbirth. The gap is smallest in Nordic countries, where public policies actively support gender equality and reconciliation of work and family, and largest in the post-socialist countries of Central and Eastern Europe and Continental Europe..

About the presenter

Ewa Cukrowska-Torzewska is an assistant professor at the Faculty of Economic Sciences of the University of Warsaw, Warsaw, Poland. She holds a PhD in Economics from the University of Warsaw, MA in Economics from the Central European University and BA in Quantitative Methods from the Warsaw School of Economics. Her research interests include empirical exploration of gender based inequalities at the labour markets of Central Eastern European countries, with a special focus on the impact of fertility and child rearing. She is a member of the group for the Virtual Research Collaboration on Gender and Family in the Labour Market, where she works on joint projects with other researchers from the region. She has participated in several fellowship and scholarship programs in Poland and abroad and collaborated with many of the Polish and international research centers focusing on scientific and policy research.