

WiC Internal Seminar

Vienna Institute of Demography
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1020 Vienna

Sonja Spitzer (VID)

joint work with Angela Greulich (Centre d'Economie de la Sorbonne) and Bernhard Hammer (VID)

Tuesday, 24 April 2018

11:00-12:00

Making Ends Meet with Children:

A Panel Analysis Based on EU-SILC Data for 30 European Countries

The arrival of a child changes household income as well as needs, which consequently alters self-reported income adequacy. We analyse the effect of births on subjective economic wellbeing, hereby capturing the direct and indirect costs of young children. The analysis is based on EU-SILC longitudinal data for 30 European countries from 2004 to 2015, enabling comparisons within and between countries as well as different types of welfare regimes. Our results show that children decrease subjective economic wellbeing in all regions, the first child being the costliest. The indirect costs vary considerably across country groups. However, in the short term, the direct costs of children explain most of the drop in self-reported income adequacy.

About the presenter

Sonja Spitzer is a predoctoral researcher at the Vienna Institute of Demography (VID) in the research group on population economics as well as a Ph.D. candidate at the Vienna University of Economics and Business (WU). She holds a Master's of Science in Economics and a Bachelor's degree in Economics and Socio-Economics, both from WU. She has also completed parts of her studies at the School of Economics and the Department of Political Economy at the University of Sydney, Australia. Her research aims to identify the special needs and wants at each life stage by empirically analysing economic and non-economic indicators such as consumption expenditure and self-reported health.