

## **Economics Lunch**

**Wednesday, March 27, 2019, 12:30 – 13:15 pm, WWZ, HG, S 15**

**Lisa Oberländer, PhD cand. Paris School of Economics**

### **"The hotter, the fatter? Weather fluctuations and Food Consumption in Mexico (joint with Ximena Játiva)"**

#### **Abstract**

Predictions suggest that global warming will increase the frequency of hot days. Understanding households' consumption responses to higher temperatures is important to assess potential negative health effects and design effective public policies. In this paper, we investigate the short-term effect of temperature variations during the past week on drinks and food consumption in Mexico. To this end, we exploit random variations in daily temperatures within municipalities while controlling for spatio-temporal trends, common shocks and food prices. We find large positive effects on consumption of drinks, in particular sodas and juices. Individuals consume more food outside and we find negative effects for staples. This shift towards sugary beverages is associated with higher BMI levels after three years, in particular for men. These negative health effects point at a need for policy interventions that address these consumption responses to temperature fluctuations.