

WWZ Research Seminar
Faculty of Business and Economics, University of Basel

Tuesday, September 27, 2022, 12:30, S15, HG, WWZ and Zoom

Prof. Dr. Christoph Moser,
Friedrich-Alexander-Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg

"Cross-Border Commuting, Gender Differences, and the
Outside Option" (joint work with Christian Kleinertz and
Klaus Nowotny)

Abstract

We study a cross-border commuting reform that granted German workers in the German-Swiss border region access to the high-wage Swiss labour market. This exogenous increase in German workers' outside option led to an increase in average wages paid by German establishments in the border region. But this wage increase is not homogenous across worker types. First, high-skilled workers enjoyed a higher wage increase than low-skilled workers, consistent with a stronger increase in Swiss-labor demand for high-skilled German workers. Second, the positive wage effects only accrue to men in the border region, but not women, consistent with gender differences in the willingness to commute. The outside option clearly seems to play an important role in wage negotiations and its wage effects can be heterogeneous.

All seminars are open to the public and take place in hybrid format with lecturer present. For updates (place, abstracts etc.) kindly visit <https://wwz.unibas.ch/de/researchseminar/>

Non-faculty members, who would like to register for the seminars, please send an email to forschungsseminar-wwz@unibas.ch.