

**Tuesday 1<sup>th</sup> July at 14:15-15:15 in room 4.39:**

Postdoctoral Research Associate, Hannes Schwandt, from Princeton University will give a lecture with the title: "Seasonal Patterns in Health at Birth - And Why Flu Could Be to Blame"

*Abstract*

A venerable literature spanning many scientific fields for almost a century has investigated the relationship between season of birth, health, and socioeconomic outcomes. Seasonal patterns have been found for birth outcomes, mental health, neurological disorders, body height, life expectancy, intelligence quotient, educational attainment, and income.

Recent papers have argued that the relationship of the birth season with health and economic outcomes could be entirely driven by selection into conception months. We use within-mother comparisons and balancing regressions to show that selection hardly affects the seasonal pattern. Moreover, we show that the seasonality in conception rates is a very strong confounder that is usually dismissed in the literature.

Removing these two sources of potential confounders, we find dramatic spikes in prematurity rates (+13%) among siblings nearing full term in months with greater prevalence of influenza. This provides the first society-wide evidence of in-utero effects of seasonal influenza on infant health.