

Valentyna Katsalap

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Education

Ph.D., Economics, University of Houston, Houston, TX, August 2013

Dissertation Title: *Impacts of Labor Market Policies: Evidence Using German Firm Level Data*

Main advisors: Aimee Chin (co-advisor), Chinhui Juhn (co-advisor)

Dissertation Committee: Aimee Chin, Chinhui Juhn, and Bent Sorensen

M.A., Economics, National University Kyiv-Mohyla Academy and EERC, Kyiv, Ukraine, 2008

B.A., Economics (Summa Cum Laude), Academy of Municipal Administration, Kyiv, Ukraine, 2006

Fields of Interest

Empirical Microeconomics, Labor Economics, Health Economics

Teaching Experience

Instructor, Principles of Macroeconomics, University of Houston, Spring 2011 - Summer 2011, Spring 2012

Teaching Assistant for Prof. Amelie Carlton, Economics of Globalization, Fall 2012 - Spring 2013

Teaching Assistant for Prof. Alok Bhargava, Principles of Microeconomics, Fall 2009 – Fall 2011

Teaching Assistant for Prof. Pauline Hardie, Principles of Microeconomics, Fall 2008 – Spring 2009

Fellowships, Honors, and Awards

Certificate of University Teaching, Center for Teaching Excellence at the University of Houston, 2012

Graduate Tuition Fellowship, University of Houston, 2008-2013

Cullen Fellowship, University of Houston, 2008-2010

Scholarship, SEB Bank, 2007-2008

Working Papers

“Labor Concessions and Saving Jobs: Lessons from German Metalworking Industry” August 2013. **[Job Market Paper]**

“Temporary Help Agencies and Their Effect on Firm Performance: Evidence from Germany” August 2013.

Works in Progress

“Health of Immigrants: Assimilation and Source Country Effects”

Conferences and Presentations

13th Annual Missouri Economic Conference, Columbia, MO, 2013

STATA Texas Empirical Microeconomics Conference, Austin, TX, 2012

54th Annual Western Social Science Association Conference, Houston, TX, 2012

Summer School Sustainable Human Development: From International Framework to Regional Policies, UNDP and Central European University, Budapest, Hungary, 2010

Languages

English (fluent), Russian (native), Ukrainian (native), German (intermediate)

Computer Skills

STATA, Eviews, LaTeX, RATS, GAUSS, R, Microsoft Office

Citizenship/Visa: Ukraine/F-1

References

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Working Papers

Labor Concessions and Saving Jobs: Lessons from German Metalworking Industry [Job Market Paper]: Against a background of increasing global competition, trade unions in industrialized countries are increasingly making concessions to firms in order to protect jobs. An important question is whether labor concessions do indeed save jobs and raise firm productivity. This paper estimates the effects of a recent labor concession made by German's largest manufacturing trade union: the increase in workweek to 40 hours for skilled workers in the metalworking industry as part of the 2004 Pforzheim Agreement. The policy raised workweek more in West Germany than in East Germany, justifying the use of a difference-in-differences strategy to identify the causal effect of the labor concession of the longer workweek for skilled workers. Using firm level data from the IAB Panel Establishment Survey for 2000-2008, I find that total employment in the average firm decreased as a result of the policy extending the workweek. Large firms, with over 500 employees at the policy's outset, benefitted more from the policy – they were found to hire more skilled workers (but released more unskilled workers for a net reduction in employment), produce more for export markets and make higher profit, while smaller firms hire fewer skilled and unskilled workers, have lower sales and lower profit, due to the policy. Thus, not only was the 2004 Pforzheim Agreement to extend workweek for skilled workers ineffective at saving jobs, it also increased wage inequality between large and smaller firms.

Temporary Help Agencies and Their Effect on Firm Performance in Germany: A series of legislative changes in Germany relaxed the restrictions on the use of temporary help workers between the mid 1980's and early 2000's. I analyze the 2002-2003 episode of temporary help sector deregulation, when the limitation on the length of the maximum period of assignment at a user firm was eliminated. Although the legislation applied to all regions in Germany, there is cross-regional variation in the prevalence of temporary help agencies at the outset, leading me to use a difference-in-differences strategy to identify the causal effect of temporary help sector deregulation. Using region level data from the Federal Employment Agency and Federal Statistics Office and the firm level from the IAB Establishment Data, I find an increase in the demand for temporary help workers and a decrease in the number of permanent workers at both region and firm level. Firms utilize temporary help workers to deal with the fluctuations in the product demand and do not need to hoard labor as was done before. It is not clear whether this strategy helps decrease labor costs in the short run, but it helps avoid medium- and long-run non-wage labor costs, such as pensions and holiday allowances. There is no significant effect on firm performance as measured by sales, exports and a subjective measure of profits.

Work In Progress

Health of Immigrants: Assimilation and Source Country Effects: I use the New Immigrant Survey along with National Health Interview Survey samples to compare the health outcomes of immigrants and natives. While immigrants are healthier in terms of BMI and being overweight (the two health outcomes I focus on in the study) at time of arrival, they are observed to converge to the health outcomes of natives over time. I relate immigrant's BMI to socioeconomic and demographic characteristics, behavioral changes (change in diet and exercising pattern) and source country characteristics. Recent work by Blau and Kahn (2011) and Fernandez and Fogli (2009) note the persistent effects of culture (proxied by source country characteristics) on immigrant women's labor supply, and this study investigates the role of culture in immigrant health assimilation.