

Nikolaos Prodromidis

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Education

Ph.D., Economics

University of Duisburg-Essen

2019–June 2025 (Expected)

M.S., Development Economics

University of Göttingen

2019

B.A., Economics

University of Athens

2016

Research Fields

Primary: Labor Economics

Secondary: Health Economics, Economic History

Job Market Paper

Title: Working hours and workers' health: Evidence from a national experiment in Sweden

(with Martin Karlsson and Daniel Kühnle)

Abstract: Despite the importance of regulating working hours for workers' physical and mental health and maintaining labour productivity, the literature lacks credible causal estimates for the short- and particularly long-run. We provide new evidence for the causal effect of reduced working hours on mortality using full population register data, exploiting exogenous variation from a nationwide policy that Sweden implemented in 1920, reducing the working hours from 56 to 48 hours for about 1 in 4 salaried workers. Exploiting variation across occupations using difference-in-differences and event-study models, we show that lower working hours decreased mortality by around 15%, with effects primarily driven by reductions in heart diseases and workplace accidents, and increased longevity of affected workers by around 0.6 years. Causal forest estimators indicate particularly strong effects for older workers. Our results imply that many lives could be saved worldwide by reducing long working hours for labour-intensive occupations.

Work in Progress

Title: Strikes, Social Contacts, and Pandemics

Abstract: This study explores how labor market activities, particularly labor strikes, influence disease transmission during pandemics by altering social interactions. Focusing on the 1918-1920 Great Influenza Pandemic in Sweden, the research investigates whether labor strikes, which increased social contacts, contributed to influenza-related mortality. I exploit staggered exogenous variation in strike timing produced by the expiration dates of collective agreements. Using 256,000 individual-level cause-of-death data and a local-projections staggered difference-in-differences framework, the study compares parishes with and without strikes during the pandemic to analyze their impact on mortality. The results reveal a 30% increase in influenza mortality rates in parishes with strikes, with notable variations across occupations. Specifically, mortality rates rose by 34% among workers and 25% among their families, while no significant effect was found in other professions. The study further examines the mechanisms behind these findings, suggesting that increased indoor worker meetings during strikes exacerbated disease spread. Using a Synthetic Difference-in-Differences approach, the research provides evidence that public gathering bans during strikes had unintended consequences, prompting workers to move their meetings indoors, where the risk of transmission was higher. These findings offer crucial insights for pandemic preparedness,

emphasizing the role of labor market dynamics in shaping disease transmission.

Title: The Long-Term Effects of Hospital Deliveries

(with Martin Fischer, Martin Karlsson, Martin Lövdén, and Therese Nilsson)

Abstract: Exploiting an intervention that affected the supply of hospital maternity wards in Sweden during the 1920s–1940s, along with individual-linked administrative data to trace potential mechanisms, we show that being born in a hospital resulted in considerable gains across the life course. Improvements in cognitive abilities were evident as early as childhood and manifested in the tasks performed in mid-life occupations. Additionally, we identify subsequent gains in secondary schooling, employment, and earnings, as well as a reduced risk of later-life dementia. Going beyond reduced-form estimations, an analysis of selection reveals a very strong selection into treatment based on expected health gains. We show that being born in a hospital provides long-lasting benefits for a small subgroup of high-risk pregnancies, which were even identifiable in a comparably low-tech historical setting. At the same time, our selection analysis demonstrates that the estimated LATE significantly overstates the population-level treatment effect, with important consequences for assessing the overall effectiveness of the policy.

Published Papers

The 1918–1919 Influenza Pandemic in Economic History. **Oxford Research Encyclopedia of Economics and Finance**, 2022. with M. Karlsson and Daniel Kühnle. DOI: 10.1093/acrefore/9780190625979.013.682

Diabetes prevalence and its relationship with education, wealth, and BMI in 29 low-and middle-income countries. **Diabetes Care**, 2020 with JA Seiglie, ME Marcus, and C. Ebert. DOI: 10.2337/dc19-1782

Teaching

Instructor: Health Economics Seminar on Low and Middle Income Countries, WS 24/25 (Master's Level)

Teaching Assistant: TA: Causality and Program Evaluation, SS 2024, SS 2023 (Master's and Graduate Level)

TA: Health Economics I, WS 22/23 (Master's Level)

TA: Health Economics II, SS 22, SS 21, SS 20 (Master's Level)

TA: Health Economics Seminar (Master), WS 19/20, WS 20/21, WS 22/23 (Master's Level)

Previous Positions

Centre for Modern Indian Studies (CeMIS)
Research Assistant

Indian Economic Development research group
2017–2019

Invited Presentations

Upcoming: University of Louvain (3/2025)

2024: Lund University (joint EKH-LUSEM seminar), University of Oslo (HELED)

Conferences and Workshops

2024: Third Applied Economics Conference: Labour, Health, Education, and Welfare, Belgrade, 9/2024; Workshop on Early Investments, Family Well-Being, and Child Development, Rødvig, 8/2024; EuHEA Conference, Vienna, 7/2024; 10th IRDES Workshop on Applied Health Economics and Policy Evaluation, Paris, 6/2024; Workshop on Health and care from early life to old age, Hamburg, 2/2024.

2023: 36th ESPE, Belgrade; 15th Swedish Economic History Meeting, Lund, 9/2023.

2022: World Economic History Congress, Paris, 7/2022; Essen Economics of Mental Health Workshop, 7/2022; Empirical Health Economics Workshop (EHEW 2022), Ispra, 7/2022; Workshop on "Global Health, Environment, and Labour", Royal Holloway, University of London, 6/2022; Workshop on Health and Inequality, Copenhagen Business School, 3/2022.

2020: 80th Annual Meeting of the Economic History Association.

2019: dggö Section "Health Econometrics" Workshop, Nürnberg, 11/2019.

Additional Information

Citizenship: Greek

Programming Skills: R, Python, Stata

Languages: English (fluent), Greek (native)

References

Professor Martin Karlsson (Chair): University of Duisburg-Essen, Department of Economics

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Professor Therese Nilsson: University of Lund, Department of Economics

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Professor Daniel Kühnle: University of Duisburg-Essen, Department of Economics

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