Selection from Standard into Nonstandard Employment: Does Health Only Matter for Women?

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Abstract

This paper tries to identify gender differences in health selection effects from regular employment to nonstandard employment relations (NER), especially temporary employment. Using German data from the Socio-economic Panel Study (SOEP) I estimate fixed effects (FE) regression models including a wide range of controls for possible confounders. The results show that health selection effects can only be found for women and not for men. Several explanations are offered for these surprising results. All of these theoretical explanations fail to explain the difference when tested empirically. The possibility of discrimination is considered.