There and Back Again: Women's Marginal Commuting Cost in Germany

Prof. Dr. Annette Bergemann
University of Bristol

We use a partial-equilibrium model of job search with non-wage job attributes to estimate female workers' marginal willingness to pay to reduce commuting distance in Germany. This issue not only has implications for congestion policy, spatial planning and transport infrastructure provision, but is also relevant to our understanding of gender differences in labour market biographies in a more general sense. Gender differences in willingness to pay for job attributes could contribute significantly to observed disparities in a number of labour market behaviours and outcomes including wages. Our analysis uses a stratified model to take better account of unobserved individual heterogeneity than the previous literature has been able to do. In particular, we use a stratified Cox model on a large administrative dataset and find that an average female worker is willing to give up a substantial larger share of their wages than men.