

# IAB-Colloquium

## zur Arbeitsmarkt- und Berufsforschung

### Minimum Wages, Labor Market Institutions, and Female Employment: A Cross-Country Analysis

John T. Addison

*University of South Carolina, U.S.A.*

The authors investigate the employment consequences of minimum wage regulation in 16 OECD countries, 1970-2008. Their treatment is motivated by Neumark and Wascher's (2004) seminal cross-country study using panel methods to estimate minimum wage effects among teenagers and young adults. Apart from the longer time interval examined, a major departure is the authors' focus on prime-age females, a group often neglected in the minimum wage literature. Another is their deployment of time-varying policy and institutional regressors. The average effects they report are consistent with minimum wages causing material employment losses among the target group. Their secondary finding is that minimum wage increases are associated with reduced participation rates and elevated joblessness as well, although the latter effects are less precisely estimated. Further, while the authors find common ground with Neumark and Wascher as regards the role of some individual labor market institutions and policies, they do not observe the same patterns in the institutional data. Specifically, prime-age females do not exhibit stronger employment losses in countries with the least regulated markets.

**Dienstag, 06. Dezember**

**10:30 Uhr**

**Pressekonferenzraum der  
BA-Zentrale (106)**