

IAB-DiskAB

Einladung
2/2012

Are they running with the pack? The formation of experts' expectations on local labour markets

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Expectations regarding the economic development might be correlated due to various reasons: because individuals use the same public information and similar evaluation methods, and because of social learning or herding amongst peers. We analyse to what extent expectations are driven by herd behaviour, and if it contributes to make expectations more realistic.

In a novel survey the CEOs of the local departments of the German Federal Employment Agency are asked for their short-term unemployment expectations. In this data we can discriminate between close and less-close peers to overcome the reflection problem and to quantitatively assess answers regarding the two questions.

We find strong evidence for herding in expectation formation. The social multiplier approximately doubles the effect of observable information included in the model. Compared to counterfactual expectations without herding constructed from the estimates, herding seems to improve the accuracy of the expectations.

Mittwoch, 9. Mai 2012

14.00 Uhr

Sitzungssaal 126a