

IAB-Colloquium zur Arbeitsmarkt- und Berufsforschung

Meta-analysis in labour economics: methods, applications and prospects

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Given the flood of findings in empirical economic research, meta-analysis provides a systematic and quantitative synthesis of the available empirical evidence on specific issues. In recent years, applications of meta-analysis in economics have been growing very fast. I have documented more than 600 meta-analyses in economics that were conducted and disseminated before the beginning of 2012. In this presentation I consider three applications in labour economics and related areas: the impact of immigration on international trade, the wage curve, and the impact of population ageing on saving behaviour. In all cases, I consider important issues such as heteroscedasticity, heterogeneity, dependence, publication bias and quality differences. I review a range of techniques in meta-regression analysis and suggest likely directions of this methodology.

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