Department of Economics, Norwegian University of Science and Technology

Ph.D. course:

Governance and performance in education

Time
May 27 to June 1, 2011 (no lecture Sunday May 29).
Lectures: 09:00-10:30 and 11:00-12:30.

Lecturer
Professor David Figlio, Northwestern University, NBER and CESifo.
Email: figlio@northwestern.edu

Aims and content
In the economics of education the international research focus is to an increasing extent shifting from analyses of the impacts of family background and school resources towards the roles of governance and management of schools. In many countries the governance system has been reformed by introducing accountability systems. School owners (municipalities and counties) and individual schools are granted more autonomy and are monitored on results rather than resource use. Elements of the recent Norwegian reform "Kunnskapsløftet" can be interpreted as an introduction of more accountability in the Norwegian system of governance.

The purpose of this course is to introduce students to some of the key issues regarding teacher evaluation, school accountability, school autonomy and school choice. The course will discuss both conceptual and empirical issues regarding these topics, and the readings will be exclusively empirical. The objective of these readings and the ensuing discussion is to help students develop an understanding of many of the important economic issues regarding governance and performance in education. In addition, students will develop more familiarity with design-based methods of causal inference in empirical economics, and the standards of evidence necessary to produce research that can make causal claims.

Evaluation will be based on class participation as well as a research paper, due on 1 December 2011. Students must write a paper of 4000 to 6000 words that either (1) develops their own empirical research on a topic related to governance and performance in education; (2) replicates and extends another paper in this general subject area; and/or (3) provides a critical literature review of related area. Students must submit a one-page proposal regarding what they plan to do no later than 1 August 2011 for approval by the instructor.

Local organizer
Professor Torberg Falch. Email: Torberg.Falch@svt.ntnu.no

Participation
Application deadline is May 1. Send application to econ@svt.ntnu.no. There is no course fee. Funds are available to support travel and accommodation for external participants.

Credits / evaluation:
7.5 ECTs / paper.

Reading list

School Accountability and School Autonomy

Atila Abdulkadiroglu, Joshua Angrist, Susan Dynarski, Thomas Kane and Parag Pathak, "Accountability and Flexibility in Public Schools: Evidence from Boston's Charters and Pilots," *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, forthcoming.

Damon Clark. "The Performance and Competitive Effects of School Autonomy," *Journal of Political Economy*, 2009, pp.745-783.

Thomas Dee and Brian Jacob. "The Impact of No Child Left Behind on Student Achievement," NBER working paper 15531, 2009.

Torberg Falch and Justina Fischer. "Public Sector Decentralization and School Performance: International Evidence," 2010, working paper.

David Figlio. "Testing, Crime and Punishment." *Journal of Public Economics*, 2006, pp.837-856.

David Figlio and Maurice Lucas. "What's in a Grade? School Report Cards and the Housing Market." *American Economic Review*, 2004, pp.591-604.

David Figlio and Cecilia Rouse. "Do Accountability and Voucher Threats Improve Low-Performing Schools?" *Journal of Public Economics*, 2006, pp.239-255.

Scott Imberman. "Achievement and Behavior in Charter Schools: Drawing a More Complete Picture," *Review of Economics and Statistics*, 2011.

Brian Jacob. " Accountability, Incentives, and Behavior: The Impact of High-Stakes Testing in the Chicago Public Schools," *Journal of Public Economics*, 2005, pp.761-796.

Thomas Kane and Douglas Staiger. "The Promises and Pitfalls of Using Imprecise School Accountability Measures," *Journal of Economic Perspectives*, 2002, pp.91-114.

Derek Neal and Diane Schanzenbach. "Left Behind By Design: Proficiency Counts and Test-Based Accountability," *Review of Economics and Statistics*, 2010, pp.263-283.

Martin West and Paul Peterson. " The Efficacy of Choice Threats Within School Accountability Systems: Results from Legislatively Induced Experiments," *Economic Journal*, 2006, pp.C46-C62.

School Choice

Joshua Angrist, Eric Bettinger, Erik Bloom, Elizabeth King and Michael Kremer. "Vouchers for Private Schooling in Colombia: Evidence from a Randomized Natural Experiment," *American Economic Review*, 2002, pp. 1535-1558.

Anders Böhlmark and Mikael Lindahl. "Does School Privatization Improve Educational Achievement? Evidence from Sweden's Voucher Reform," IZA discussion paper 3691, 2008.

Eric Brunner, Jennifer Imazeki and Stephen Ross. " Universal Vouchers and Racial and Ethnic Segregation," *Review of Economics and Statistics*, 2010, pp.912-927.

David Figlio and Cassandra Hart. "Competitive Effects of Means-Tested School Vouchers," NBER working paper, 2011.

Justine Hastings and Jeffrey Weinstein. “Information, School Choice, and Academic Achievement: Evidence from Two Experiments,” *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, 2008, pp.1373-1414.

Caroline Hoxby. “Does Competition Among Public Schools Benefit Students and Taxpayers?” *American Economic Review*, 2000, pp.1209-1238.

Chang-Tai Hsieh and Miguel Urquiola. "The effects of Generalized School Choice on Achievement and Stratification: Evidence from Chile's Voucher Program," *Journal of Public Economics*, 2006, pp.1477-1503.

Victor Lavy. " Effects of Free Choice Among Public Schools," *Review of Economic Studies*, 2010, pp.1164-1191.

Cecilia Rouse. “Private School Vouchers and Student Achievement: An Evaluation of the Milwaukee Parental Choice Program,” *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, 1998, pp.553-602.

Incentives and Accountability for Teachers

David Figlio and Lawrence Kenny. "Individual Teacher Incentives and Student Performance," *Journal of Public Economics*, 2007, pp.901-914.

Roland Fryer. "Teacher Incentives and Student Achievement: Evidence from New York City," NBER working paper 16850, 2011.

Paul Glewwe, Nauman Ilias, and Michael Kremer. ”Teacher Incentives,” *American Economic Journal*, 2010, pp.205-227.

C. Kirabo Jackson. "A Stitch in Time: The Effects of a Novel Incentive-Based High-School Intervention on College Outcomes," working paper, 2011.

Brian Jacob, Lars Lefgren and David Sims. "The Persistence of Teacher-Induced Learning," *Journal of Human Resources*, 2010, pp.915-943.

Victor Lavy. “Evaluating the Effect of Teachers’ Group Performance Incentives on Pupil Achievement,” *Journal of Political Economy*, 2002, pp.1286-1317.

Victor Lavy. “Performance Pay and Teachers’ Effort, Productivity, and Grading Ethics, "*American Economic Review*, 2009, pp.1979-2021.

Karthik Muralidharan and Venkatesh Sundararaman. “Teacher Performance Pay: Experimental Evidence from India,” *Journal of Political Economy*, 2011.

Jesse Rothstein. "Teacher Quality in Educational Production: Tracking, Decay, and Student Achievement," *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, 2010, pp. 175-214.