

## Call for Papers

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# 3<sup>rd</sup> Forum „Higher Education and the Labour Market“ (HELM)

**DATE:**  
September 20-21, 2021

**LOCATION:**  
Online Conference

of the Institute for Employment Research (IAB) and the German Centre for Higher Education Research and Science Studies (DZHW), with a special focus on “Dropping out of Higher Education: Reasons, Selectivity, and Labour Market Outcomes”

## Aims and Topics

Student dropout from higher education constitutes a serious challenge: In recent years, almost 30% of students enrolled in bachelor's degree programmes in Germany have left university without a degree. Moreover, dropout entails substantial costs. These include the costs of students' (unsuccessful) stay in the higher education system as well as indirect costs due to the loss of tax and contribution payments these students would have made had they entered the labour market immediately after school. On an individual level, dropout entails a lower lifetime income as well as psychological costs, as dropouts have to cope with their academic “failure” and also need to realign the plans for their professional future. Therefore, understanding – and potentially avoiding – student dropout is a topic of high relevance, not only for researchers but also for policy makers and students themselves.

The conference aims to provide insights and different perspectives on the link between higher education and the labour market. It offers sessions with general contributions on the topic – as, for example, on returns to tertiary education, graduates' placement on the labour market, or regional mobility of graduates – as well as sessions on this year's focus topic, dropout from higher education. In this framework, we are particularly interested in contributions on topics such as:

- (Labour-market) perspectives of university dropouts.
- Selectivity of dropout with respect to students' social background.
- Reasons for student dropout, with papers on the current Covid-19 pandemic's impacts on dropout being particularly welcome.
- Returns to alternative educational tracks (e.g., vocational education) vs. immediate entry into the labour market after dropout.
- Potential measures to reduce dropout rates.

Please note that due to the current pandemic, the 3<sup>rd</sup> Forum „Higher Education and the Labour Market“ (HELM) will be held as an online conference.

## Keynote speakers

- Prof. Eric A. Hanushek, PhD, Paul and Jean Hanna Senior Fellow at the Hoover Institution of Stanford University (California)
- Dr. Sylke V. Schnepf, Senior Researcher at the EC – Joint Research Centre Ispra (Italy)

## Submission

We welcome empirical contributions on the general topics as well as on the focus topic from various disciplines, particularly from Economics, Social Sciences, and Educational Sciences.

Please submit a short outline (max. 500 words) by **July 12, 2021** to [HELM-2021@iab.de](mailto:HELM-2021@iab.de).

## Scientific committee

- Prof. Bernd Fitzenberger, PhD (IAB/ FAU Erlangen-Nuremberg)
- Prof. Dr. Monika Jungbauer Gans (DZHW/ University of Hanover)
- Prof. Dr. Silke Anger (IAB/ University of Bamberg)
- Dr. Anja Gottburgsen (DZHW)
- Dr. Bernhard Christoph (IAB)
- Dr. Nancy Kracke (DZHW)

## Further information

For further information please contact [HELM-2021@iab.de](mailto:HELM-2021@iab.de).



# Call for Papers

## EffEE PhD Workshop on Causal Analyses of School Reforms

30 September – 1 October | Berlin

On 30 September and 1 October 2021, the WZB Berlin Social Science Center and the ifo Center for the Economics of Education will jointly host the second PhD Workshop on “Causal Analyses of School Reforms” at the WZB Berlin Social Science Center in Berlin.

After a first fruitful PhD workshop in fall 2020, the second EffEE PhD workshop again is aimed at PhD students from the field of educational research who are investigating the effects of reforms in the school system using causal analysis. A total of 12 PhD students will have the opportunity to discuss their results but also their conceptual considerations with experts in the context of paper presentations. The workshop serves as preparation for the EffEE conference in Munich (spring 2022, CfP will follow in autumn 2021).

The workshop will focus on a better understanding of which education policies can contribute to improving the efficiency and equity of education systems in the face of fundamental challenges of our time (e.g. technological and demographic change, lack of social cohesion). We invite submissions that use convincing evaluation methods to estimate reform effects on short-run achievement or long-run life-course outcomes of affected students. Reform aspects under study may include different aspects of the length, structure, financing, curriculum, instruction, and examination of schooling. We are particularly interested in contributions using differences-in-differences type of analyses that exploit differences in the timing of reform implementation across regions within a country and in papers focusing on reforms of what is actually going on inside schools in terms of the content of school activities.

In addition to keynotes by Pia Pinger and Herman van de Werfhorst, there will also be the opportunity to exchange ideas with selected experts. Depending on the situation around the corona pandemic, the workshop will take place either in the rooms of the WZB or in a digital format.

We ask for abstracts of up to 500 words (excluding bibliography) by 31 July 2021, presenting the research gap, the research question, the theoretical approach, the data and methods used, and – if already available – key findings.

The Workshop is part of the project “Efficiency and Equity in Education: Quasi-Experimental Evidence from School Reforms across German States (EffEE)” generously funded by the Leibniz Association under its competitive procedure.

### KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

**Pia Pinger** (University of Cologne)  
**Herman van de Werfhorst**  
 (University of Amsterdam)

### SUBMISSION DEADLINE

Please email your abstract (in PDF format) by **31 July 2021 (midnight CET)** to:  
[norbert.sendzik@wzb.eu](mailto:norbert.sendzik@wzb.eu)

### ORGANIZERS

Jutta Allmendinger, Marcel Helbig,  
 and Norbert Sendzik (WZB Berlin  
 Social Science Center)

Ludger Woessmann and Larissa  
 Zierow (ifo Institute at the  
 University of Munich)

### CONFERENCE DETAILS

The organizers will provide accommodation and reimburse economy travel costs for presenters of accepted papers. Further questions regarding the organization and scientific content of the conference should be addressed to the conference organizers.

### CONFERENCE VENUE

WZB Berlin Social Science Center,  
 Reichpietschufer 50, D-10785  
 Berlin, Germany

### CONTACT

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