The Effect of Unemployment on Mental Health—
a non-parametric bounds analysis

Presented by: Daniel Kuehnle

Date: Monday 16 March 2015
Time: 12noon - 1:00pm
Venue: RB Scotton Room
Level 2, Building 75

Abstract:
This seminar presents some work in progress. We examine the effect of unemployment on mental health using a non-parametric bounds analysis. Non-parametric bounds yield information on the Average Treatment Effect (ATE) given relatively weak non-parametric assumptions. We estimate the bounds for the ATE of unemployment on mental health using data from the Household, Income and Labour Dynamics in Australia (HILDA) Survey. We examine several bounds under alternative selection and treatment response assumptions and compare the results to those obtained from estimators more commonly used in the literature. We find evidence of a negative effect of unemployment on mental health that is robust to the measure of mental health and alternative monotone instrumental variables.

Presenter:
Daniel Kuehnle is a Research Fellow at the University of Erlangen-Nürnberg. His primary research interests include the socio-economic determinants of health, early childhood outcomes and well-being. He currently works on projects relating to smoking bans and health, unemployment and mental health, parental leave and child health, and early childhood inequality. Daniel gained his PhD in Economics at the University of Erlangen-Nürnberg in 2014. Prior to that, he obtained an MSc in Development Economics and Policy from the University of Manchester (2008) and a BA in Economics and Politics from the University of Leeds (2007). Daniel worked as a Research Officer at the Melbourne Institute of Applied Economic and Social Research from 2009 to 2011. He has published in journals such as the Journal of Health Economics and Industrial Relations: A journal of the society and economy.