

Many new publications

This year 27 new research articles were published or accepted for publication in academic journals.

What drives support for redistribution in society?

Answers to this question are provided in an article in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (PNAS) by Kreiner, Leth-Petersen and Olufsen together with external CEBI members Epper and Fehr. Beyond traditional selfish motives, theory of inequality aversion predicts that individuals dislike both advantageous inequality (material well-being relative to those worse off) and disadvantageous inequality (material well-being relative to those better off) and that these two motives drive people's support for public redistribution policies and their choices of private redistribution (charitable donations). The new results confirm these theoretical predictions of human behavior by using a unique combination of experiments eliciting people's inequality aversion, survey information about their support for public redistribution, and administrative data revealing their real-life donations to charity.

Gender inequality and the role of children

CEBI research documenting a large and long-lasting child penalty on the income of women, with no effect on men, have received massive academic and public attention, including best-paper prize, a Netflix feature and citation in the economic report of the US president. Gørtz, Jørgensen, Kristiansen, Sander and Søgaaard published three new articles on this topic. The results, for example, show that the impact of children on gender inequality extends to grandparents due to reductions in labor supply of grandmothers after birth of grandchildren. The results also provide an assessment of the consequences of the new EU directive enforcing earmarked parental leave, showing that this is successful in increasing paternal leave but also reduces the total leave of parents.

How did the COVID-19 disease spread?

CEBI contributed with research during the COVID-19 pandemic on how to stimulate vaccine behavior and on the economic consequences of various policy responses. A new article in PNAS by Andersen, Johannesen and collaborators contributes to our understanding of the spread of the disease. The study combines card payment data, indicating exactly where and when individuals visited stores, with test data indicating when they were infected, and shows that exposure to an infected individual in a store is associated with a significantly higher infection rate in the following week. The estimates imply that transmissions between retail shoppers made a substantial contribution to the COVID-19 pandemic.

High-impact publications in the pipeline

CEBI has many new research results in the pipeline. Notably, six research papers have revise-and-resubmit status at the most prestigious journals in Economics (the so-called top-five journals). While this is not a guarantee for final publications, it is likely that some of the revisions will be successful and add to the 12 articles so far published by CEBI in these journals.

Organization of major research events

CEBI members organized eight major research events. This includes focused workshops on Labor Supply and Inequality within Families and on Early Investments, Family Well-Being and Child Development organized by Jørgensen and Wüst. CEBI hosted the Nordic Public Policy Symposium (NPPS), which had Kreiner and Søgaaard in the program committee and external CEBI member Henrik Kleven from Princeton as a keynote speaker. Daysal was member and field leader of the Scientific Committee of the 2024 European Economic Association Congress taking place in Rotterdam.

Research visits and visitors

Exchange of knowledge and discussion of research ideas are important beyond conferences and workshops. This year, CEBI had 24 short-term visitors who gave seminars and engaged in one-to-one meetings with CEBI researchers, including PhD students. The guests included Marianne Page from UC Davies, Shoshana Vasserman from Stanford University, Ami Ko from Georgetown University, Xavier Jaravel from London School of Economics, Anna Dreber Almenberg from Stockholm School of Economics and Teodora Boneva from University of Bonn. Three young researchers (PhD, Post Doc) were long-term guests at CEBI. CEBI senior researchers Daysal, Ejrnæs and Wüst were long-term visitors at Institute of Labor Economics (IZA) in Bonn, Princeton University and University of Amsterdam while CEBI PhD students Fugleholm, Hartmann, Lorentzen and Petersen were long-term visitors at European University Institute Florence, New York University, Oxford University and Stanford University.

Excellence grants to young talents

Druedahl, Jørgensen and Nielsen have previously received Sapere Aude and Semper Ardens excellence grants. This year, Christina Gravert received a Semper Ardens grant from Carlsbergfondet on a project that will provide knowledge about the role of behavior for technology adoption, including a better understanding of why households do not select the most efficient and cheapest energy solutions. Two CEBI PhD students have previously received Fulbright grants. This year Hartmann received a Fulbright grant to visit CEBI external member Andrew Caplin at New York University.

Five CEBI members in four expert commissions

CEBI researchers are often called upon for formal or informal policy advice. Five CEBI members were in four expert commissions that provided their final conclusions in 2024. Gørtz was member of Ekspertudvalget for Socialområdet. Druedahl and Johannesen were members of Ekspertgruppen for Fremtidens Erhvervsstøtte. Kreiner was member of Ekspertgruppen for en Grøn Skattereform and chair of Ekspertgruppen for Fremtidens Beskæftigelsesindsats, which also included Søgaaard. Mette Ejrnæs is currently co-chair of the Danish Economic Council. Kreiner was among the top-50 most cited experts in Danish media in 2024.