



Wittgenstein Centre

FOR DEMOGRAPHY AND
GLOBAL HUMAN CAPITAL

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the
seminar will be held online via Zoom.

WIC Online Colloquium

Restarting the Economy While Saving Lives Under COVID-19

Thursday, June 25th, 2020
14:00-15:00 (CEST)

Please click [here](#) to register online.
Login information will be sent to registered
participants the day before the presentation.

Andrea Ichino

European University Institute

We provide, calibrate and test a realistic model of the spread of SARS-Cov-2 in an economy where the population has different age groups and sectors. The model takes into account factors that have proved to be essential in explaining features of the effect of the epidemic, in particular the constraint in the number of Intensive Care Units available in a region and the different response to the epidemic of individuals of different ages. We characterize the policies of containment of the epidemic that are efficient with respect to important outcomes such as number of fatalities and GDP loss. Our main finding is that prudent policies of gradual return to work even in the short period, may save many lives with limited economic costs, as long as a threshold is not reached. Further attempts to reduce fatalities beyond this threshold cause GDP losses that become extremely large. The policies that allow this safe return to productive activity are a combination of selection criteria of individual allowed to return to work on the basis of age and risk of the sector in which they are employed.

About the presenter

Andrea Ichino graduated in 1985 at Bocconi University and got his Ph.D. from MIT in 1990. He has taught at Bocconi University in Milan, at the University of Bologna and is now at the European University Institute in Fiesole. His research interests are in labour economics, economics of education and microeconometrics. He is a Research Fellow of CEPR, CESifo, IZA and one of the Managing Editors of Economic Policy. More information and Andrea's publications can be found at www.andreaichino.it

The Wittgenstein Centre is a collaboration among the Department of Demography of the University of Vienna, the World Population Program of the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA) and the Vienna Institute of Demography of the Austrian Academy of Sciences (VID/ÖAW).