

Im Rahmen der öffentlichen Vortragsreihe

Economic Theory and Policy

des Forschungsbereichs Ökonomie

am Institut für Stochastik und Wirtschaftsmathematik der TU Wien

hält

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(Universität Konstanz)

einen Vortrag

mit dem Titel

On the Optimal Reform of Income Assistance to Single Mothers

Abstract: Is the current U.S. system of taxes and transfers optimal to assist single mothers in need? To answer this question, we build a dynamic structural model where workers face uninsurable productivity risk and heterogeneity in child care costs. They respond to policy along both the extensive and intensive margins of labor supply and they make decisions on consumption/savings. We find that there is room to improve the current U.S. tax-transfer system. Our results call for an increase in the minimum guaranteed income for single mothers and for a reduction in the EITC subsidy rate in the phase-in region. We conclude that the incentives for labor market participation present in the current U.S. tax-transfer system are higher than the ones prescribed by our optimal policy.

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