

**Poštovani,**

pozivamo vas na *Znanstveni utorak* koji će se održati **5. listopada 2017.** godine (četvrtak) u Velikoj dvorani Ekonomskog instituta, Zagreb, I. kat s početkom u 14:00 sati. Izlaganje će održati **Alexander Ahammer** na temu:

## **The effect of maternity leave on health-at-birth outcomes: Evidence from Austria**

Maternity leave policies are thought to be essential to ensure the health of pregnant workers and their unborn children. However, little is known about the optimal duration of prenatal maternity leave and existing policies are not evidence-based. We evaluate a substantial maternity leave extension in Austria, which increased mandatory leave prior to birth from six to eight weeks. Our estimation strategy exploits the fact that the eligibility for the extended leave was determined by a cut-off due date. As an additional source of exogenous variation, we use information on non-working mothers, who are not eligible for maternity leave. Across estimations, we consistently find no evidence for significant effects of this extension on children's health at birth, subsequent maternal health and fertility, and long-term human capital outcomes of children. Our finding is confirmed by a supplementary cross-country panel analysis.

**Alexander Ahammer** asistent je i doktorski student na Sveučilištu Johannes Kepler u Linzu, Austriji. Istraživački interesi su mu ekonomika zdravlja i rada.

Zahvaljujemo na odazivu.