



Leibniz-Institut für  
Wirtschaftsforschung Halle

# IWH Research Seminar in Economics

Montag, 13. Juni 2016, 14:15 – 15:45 Uhr, Konferenzsaal im Erdgeschoss



## Not Working at Work: Loafing, Unemployment and Labor Productivity

Professor Dr. Michael C. Burda, Ph.D., Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin

(gemeinsam mit Katie R. Genadek, University of Minnesota und Daniel S. Hamermesh, Royal Holloway University of London)

We use the American Time Use Survey (ATUS) 2003-12 to estimate time spent by workers in non-work while on the job. Non-work time is substantial and varies positively with the local unemployment rate. While average time spent by workers in non-work conditional on any positive amount rises with the unemployment rate, the fraction of workers reporting positive values varies pro-cyclically, declining in recessions. These results are consistent with a model in which heterogeneous workers are paid efficiency wages to refrain from loafing on the job. That model correctly predicts relationships of the incidence and conditional amounts of non-work with wage rates and measures of unemployment benefits in state data linked to the ATUS, and it is consistent with estimated occupational differences. [\(read more\)](#)

Wissenschaftlicher Ansprechpartner am IWH:

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