

Pia Pinger



Academic career

2006	Master in International Economic Studies, Maastricht University, Netherlands
2006 - 2007	Advanced Studies Program in International Economic Policy Research, Kiel Institute for the World Economy
2006 - 2007	Research Assistant, Kiel Institute for the World Economy
2007	Research Assistant, James Heckman, University of Chicago, IL, USA
2008 - 2013	Researcher, Centre for European Economic Research (ZEW), Mannheim
2008	Visiting Scholar, University of Chicago, IL, USA
2009 - 2013	Researcher, Professor Gerard van den Berg, University of Mannheim
2010 - 2015	IZA Research Affiliate, Bonn
2011	Visiting Scholar, University of Chicago, IL, USA
2013	PhD in Economics (summa cum laude), University of Mannheim
Since 2013	Junior Professor, Department of Economics, University of Bonn
Since 2014	HCEO Emerging Scholar (Becker Friedman Institute, University of Chicago and INET)
Since 2015	IZA Research Fellow, Bonn
Since 2016	briq Research Associate, Bonn

Honours

2014	Karin Islinger Dissertation Award
2014	Dissertation Prize "The Future of Labor", awarded by the ZEW/Volksbank Weinheim Foundation
2015	Prize for the best dissertation in the field of education economics 2013/2014 awarded by the German education committee (Bildungsökonomischer Ausschuss, Verein für Socialpolitik)
2015	Excellence in teaching award (for health economics, bachelor)
2015 - 2017	Swedish Research Council, grant no. 2014-2448, with Gerard van den Berg, Bitte Modin and Denny Vågerö

Research Projects and Activities

DFG Collaborative Research Center SFB/TR 224 "Economic Perspectives on Societal Challenges: Equality of Opportunity, Market Regulation, and Financial Stability",
Project leader of the project "Family decision-making and investments"

Research profile

The main focus of Pia Pinger's research lies on the formation of human capital within and across generations and its implications for socio-economic inequality. In particular, she is interested in how individuals and parents make human capital investment decisions and to what extent their decision-making is influenced by personality traits, expectations, economic preferences, and constraints. In this respect, her work relates to the emerging field of behavioral economics of education. In terms of methodology, she has strong interests in developing and applying micro-econometric techniques to solve problems that are common obstacles in research on human

capital formation, such as endogeneity, recall bias, or the imperfect measurement of traits, preferences, and expectations.

In the future Pia Pinger is planning to work on the role of labor market expectations on educational and occupational decision-making and on the importance of mentoring programs to remediate intergenerational inequalities. First, to examine labor market expectations at different points of the life cycle she has recently engaged in an extensive data collection effort. Specifically, she has elicited expected future wages at three time points over the life cycle (first salary, age 40, age 55) and for different scenarios among a sample of over 15,000 students (almost 1% of the German student population) in two waves (>30,000 students in total). Using these data, she investigates how labor market expectations relate to occupational choice.

Second, regarding the role of mentoring to remediate intergenerational inequalities, she investigates the impact of a mentoring program. As part of the intervention, the life circumstances of elementary school children and their families were experimentally varied. The sample consists of more than 700 families in the metropolitan area Cologne/Bonn. Using these data, Pia Pinger shows that a low-cost low-intensity mentoring program can boost child education outcomes by altering the parental decision-making process. The intervention closes around 1/3 of the gap in education outcomes between high and low SES children and the effect is particularly pronounced among children who grow up in poverty. Using advanced mediation analyses, Pia Pinger is currently in the process of investigating the channels through which the program operated.

Research Area I The focus of my research in this area is on the development of strategic behavior, economic preferences, beliefs, and human capital in young individuals and among different population groups [3, 5]. My work thus provides evidence on observed experimental and behavioral phenomena, which inform theoretical models (see also [4]). Moreover, I study the extent to which different societal groups understand and act upon incentives provided by public institutions and labor markets (work in progress).

Selected publications

- [1] Gerard J Berg and Pia R Pinger. Transgenerational effects of childhood conditions on third generation health and education outcomes. *Economics and Human Biology*, 23:103–120, 2016.
- [2] David Carlsake, Pia R Pinger, Pål Romundstad, and George Davey Smith. Early-onset paternal smoking and offspring adiposity: Further investigation of a potential intergenerational effect using the hunt study. *PLOS ONE*, 11(12):e0166952, 2016.
- [3] R’emi Piatek and Pia Pinger. Maintaining (locus of) control? data combination for the identification and inference of factor structure models. *Journal of Applied Econometrics*, 31(4):734–755, 2016. jae.2456.
- [4] Pia Pinger, Isabel Ruhmer-Krell, and Heiner Schumacher. The compromise effect in action: Lessons from a restaurant’s menu. *Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization*, 128:14–34, 2016.
- [5] Pia R. Pinger, Johannes Schoch, and Gerard J. van den Berg. Instrumental variable estimation of the causal effect of hunger early in life on health later in life. *The Economic Journal*, 126(591):465–506, 2016.
- [6] Pia Pinger. Come back or stay? spend here or there? return and remittances: The case of moldova. *International Migration*, 48(5):142–173, 2010.