

HOW TO COOPERATE WITH THE INSTITUTE FOR THE STUDY OF LABOR

The Researcher's Guide to IZA

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IZA's Mission

The Institute for the Study of Labor (IZA) analyzes the problems associated with the organization of labor in a rapidly developing globalized economic environment. Within a framework of seven research areas, IZA focuses on original and internationally competitive research activities in all fields of labor economics. In addition, IZA provides policy advice on crucial issues of labor market policy.

As a virtual research center operating worldwide, IZA offers a broad range of facilities for labor economists to participate in the institute's ambitious agenda in labor market research and policy advice as well as to use IZA's special services that are accessible through our homepage. IZA's dynamic international network of Research Fellows is an important backbone of the institute's activities. More than 800 renowned labor economists from all parts of the world cooperate with IZA by participating in individual projects and events or accepting IZA's invitations for extended research visits. The IZA Discussion Paper Series provides an important outlet for their work. Junior researchers and Ph.D. students have the opportunity to become part of the IZA network as Research Affiliates.

IZA closely cooperates with a number of national and international universities and research institutions. A special cooperation with the University of Bonn has been established in order to give additional momentum to academic research and teaching. Other important IZA collaborations include close contacts e.g. to The World Bank, DIW Berlin and DIW DC.

Main Tasks of IZA

- To undertake original and internationally competitive research activities in all fields of labor economics
- To promote the transfer of scientific findings into practical policy concepts
- To disseminate research results and concepts to the interested public
- To facilitate data access for labor economists through the innovative IZA International Data Service Center (IDSC)

Nature and Contents of Research Activities at IZA

- Innovative, empirical research using econometric analysis of large individual data sets
- Microeconomic research focusing on individual and firm level decisions
- International comparative research in close cooperation with foreign institutes and organizations
- Examination, documentation and evaluation of new concepts in labor market policy and corporate employment initiatives (scientific advice and evaluation)

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IZA Research Program: Agenda for the Future of Labor

Research at IZA is organized in a number of different research areas that together span a wide array of labor market research. Headed and coordinated by IZA Research Director **Marco Caliendo**, these areas function as umbrellas for individual projects with a common thread and are typically administered by an external Program Director as well as a resident Deputy Program Director. Such projects are often initiated by IZA Research Fellows or IZA's in-house researchers, but they also include commissioned studies for national or regional governments. By means of international cooperation and organizing workshops tailored to these projects, existing expertise throughout the international research community is brought together.

1. Evaluation of Labor Market Programs

Modern welfare states spend substantial amounts on labor market policies aimed at promoting employment and wages. For successful policy development, monitoring of program outcomes is essential. Which participants in a program actually benefit from it? And how does the initiative affect those who do not participate? Econometric evaluation gives answers to these questions in the absence of controlled policy experiments. Simulation based on empirical regularities in individual behavior enables evaluation even before implementation of new programs. Using these techniques to carry out rigorous cost-benefit analyses, IZA provides independent advice to policymakers, with the goal to contribute to a more targeted allocation of financial resources.

Program Directors: **Gerard van den Berg** (University of Mannheim)
Marco Caliendo (University of Potsdam)
Deputy Program Director: **Patrick Arni** (IZA)

2. Behavioral and Personnel Economics

What makes some employment relationships successful, and causes others to fail? What is the role of government and the law in enhancing the performance of existing and new employment relationships? These are key questions for personnel economics. Its primary goal is to understand the relationship between institutions and employee performance. Recent research in behavioral economics has begun to enhance our understanding of the psychological foundations of incentives, and demonstrates that performance does not depend only upon the relationship between measured performance and pay, but also upon many other features of the workplace environment. The research conducted within this IZA program area can inform both businesses and government on the best way to manage their employees and improve existing laws and regulations.

Program Director: **Armin Falk** (University of Bonn)
Deputy Program Director: **Steffen Altmann** (IZA)

3. Migration

The IZA research program on migration is concerned with the determinants of the supply and demand for migration, including immigration law, the legal status of migrants and the nature of ethnicity and its consequences for economic behavior. It is also interested in the many aspects of the adjustment of the migrants and their descendants in the destination, including public policies regarding absorption and assimilation. Moreover, the program area is concerned with the impact of the migration on both the origin and the destination. The implications of the analyses for immigration policy, absorption and integration policy, and other public policies are also studied.

Program Director: **Amelie Constant** (DIW DC and Georgetown University)

Deputy Program Directors: **Martin Kahanec** (Central European University)

Corrado Giuliatti (IZA)

4. Labor Markets and Institutions

This program area analyzes the effect of institutions on labor market outcomes. A particular emphasis is on the analysis of the institutions on the micro level and their macroeconomic consequences for economic performance. Furthermore, the program area is concerned with the politico-economic determinants of institutions such as unions, employment protection legislation, minimum wages, unemployment insurance and other institutions of the welfare state. A related focus of attention is the interaction between labor markets and product or financial markets and their respective institutions as markets become ever more global.

Program Director: **Pierre Cahuc** (Ecole Polytechnique, Paris)

Deputy Program Director: **Konstantinos Tatsiramos** (IZA)

5. Labor Markets in Emerging and Transition Economies

The analysis of labor markets in transition economies within this program area is focused on understanding and evaluating special adjustment mechanisms, emphasizing the differences between Central European countries and the countries of the Former Soviet Union; evaluating the success of labor market reforms in the light of Western experience; discussing the lessons that can be drawn from these reform efforts for EU economies; and last, but not least, analyzing labor issues that are connected to EU accession of the Central European countries. IZA research in this area will also be extended to labor markets in the emerging economies of Africa, Asia and Latin America.

Program Director: **Hartmut Lehmann** (University of Bologna)

Deputy Program Director: **Alexander Muravyev** (IZA)

6. The Future of Labor

The future of labor is shaped by three distinct factors. On the demand side, globalization and fast-paced technological progress lead to reorganization and new forms of work. On the supply side, training, mobility and population aging determine the scope and social consequences of these adjustments. Additionally, the interplay of supply and demand is subject to a third major factor: the responses of various labor market institutions and government policies. This research program focuses on critical developments taking place in the labor market, providing enhanced understanding of labor market dynamics.

Program Director: **David G. Blanchflower** (Dartmouth College)

Deputy Program Director: **Andreas Peichl** (IZA)

7. Employment and Development

The economic and social transformations in many developing countries over the last decade have often put their economies on higher and more sustainable growth paths. In too many cases, however, poor labor market conditions still lead to high unemployment levels, increased inequality and exclusion.. Sound labor markets that promote the creation of more and better jobs are needed to guarantee the success of structural reforms, to maintain the social support for those reforms, and to ensure that the benefits are widely distributed. Against this background, IZA has launched the new Program Area on Employment and Development in collaboration with the World Bank.

Program Directors: **David Robalino** (World Bank)

Stefano Scarpetta (OECD)

Deputy Program Directors: **Alpaslan Akay** (IZA)

Theodora Xenogiani (OECD)

IZA Focus on Labor Policy: “Inter-Program” Area

IZA engages in manifold policy advice activities in Germany, on the EU level and worldwide. IZA researchers act as consultants to government representatives, and the institute provides high-standard research reports on behalf of ministries and other policy institutions. The IZA focus on labor policy serves as an “inter-program” cross-sectional area and draws from all aspects of the seven research areas outlined above. Within this focus, IZA systematically evaluates its research findings with respect to their labor market policy implications, creates research projects with immediate policy relevance, and offers concrete labor market policy advice and information.

Many of the potential side effects of policy programs cannot be causally explained as long as the analysis is limited to the national scale. To put the policy effects in an internationally comparative perspective, however, first-hand knowledge of individual countries is indispensable. IZA’s global research network is perfectly suited to provide the necessary resources for this task.

Director of Labor Policy: **Hilmar Schneider** (IZA)

Deputy Director: **Werner Eichhorst** (IZA)

IZA Activities

Events

IZA organizes and co-organizes a variety of events, including a weekly Research Seminar, a broad range of workshops of conferences and annual topic meetings of the institute's research areas. The annual IZA/SOLE Transatlantic Meeting of Labor Economists and the European Summer Symposium in Labor Economics (ESSLE) are among the most distinguished expert meetings in the field bringing together renowned labor economists and young researchers to discuss research findings and to establish contacts for future cooperation. A number of advanced graduate students are selected each year to participate in the IZA European Summer School in Labor Economics. Details on our events can be found on our website, which also offers information and links to various international conferences and meetings.

Publications

The wide range of IZA publications provides an important contribution to academic and public debates on labor market issues. Besides special publications like IZA Books and Research Reports, IZA offers various possibilities for its Research Fellows, Affiliates and other interested labor economists to publish their research findings in the institute's publication series:

- The influential IZA Discussion Paper Series facilitates the dissemination of high-quality research by IZA staff members, Research Fellows and Affiliates to the scientific community and the interested public. The papers have a worldwide circulation and are available in major research libraries and public policy institutions.
- The IZA Policy Paper Series serves as a complement to the IZA Discussion Paper Series and offers a forum for policy oriented studies authored by IZA staff and network members. Additional policy-oriented studies in German language are available in the parallel IZA Standpunkte series.
- The Journal of Population Economics is an international quarterly that publishes original theoretical and applied research and survey articles on topics dealing with broadly defined relationships between economic and demographic problems. IZA acts as the editorial headquarters of the Journal of Population Economics and hosts its website (www.popecon.org).
- The Research in Labor Economics Series is co-edited by IZA. Each volume in this book series consists of a collection of refereed research papers written by top economists in the field of labor economics. Two volumes are published per year, with one volume remaining in the tradition of the series with empirical and theoretical papers in labor economics and a second volume being more policy-oriented, in the spirit of IZA's focus on policy aspects of labor economics. Submissions for special issues and symposia are also considered.

IDSC– International Data Service Center

As part of a project supported by the Federal Ministry of Education and Research, IZA has developed a virtual data service center IDSC, which facilitates the search for datasets that are relevant for labor economists. The IDSC “meta-database” contains the most important datasets for labor economics. All these datasets are available with technical, legal and content information. They are easily searchable in a standardized way, e.g. for questions and variables. Documentation previously only available in German has been translated to English.

In addition to this publicly accessible service, authorized researchers can analyze several datasets by means of controlled remote data processing. The jobs are submitted online or via e-mail to IDSC, which performs the analyses in a timely fashion and sends the results to the submitter.

Complete information on the IDSC Data Service Center is available at idsc.iza.org.

IZA Prize in Labor Economics

Only members of the IZA network of Research Fellows are entitled to nominate candidates for the IZA Prize in Labor Economics, the most prestigious award in the field. The IZA Prize is awarded for outstanding academic achievement in labor economics. It is meant to stimulate research that tries to find answers to the important labor market policy questions of our time. The decision on the Prize Laureate is made by the IZA Prize Committee, which includes distinguished international labor economists as well as IZA representatives.

How to cooperate with IZA

IZA offers its more than 1000 research fellows and affiliates a number of ways to distribute research findings, participate in events, organize research projects, cooperate with IZA network members, work with available datasets, or visit IZA in Bonn. Most features can be accessed by logging in with your IZA username and password at <http://www.iza.org/members>. If you have forgotten your password, please contact webmaster@iza.org. If you wish to become a member of our network, please have a look at the list below, which gives you an overview of the various ways to cooperate with IZA. It also contains the names and e-mail addresses of your contact persons at IZA.

How to become an IZA Research Associate

Research Associates participate in the general activities of the center and engage in research and publication in international journals. Involvement in the institute's teaching is possible but not required. Knowledge of German is useful, but the working language at IZA is English. The ideal candidate is a recent Ph.D. with some publications and excellent knowledge of econometrics and applied and policy-oriented labor issues. Positions offer a competitive salary and are initially for 3 years, with possibility of one-time renewal. Applications are considered twice a year (deadlines: May 31 and November 30) and must be submitted through our [online application form](#).

Contact: [Lydia Simons](mailto:simons@iza.org) (simons@iza.org)

How to become an IZA Research Fellow or Affiliate

IZA's dynamic international network of Research Fellows is an important backbone of the institute's activities. Membership in this network is typically achieved through invitation by IZA. All Fellows are initially appointed for a period of three years with the possibility of renewal. More junior researchers and Ph.D. students have the opportunity to become part of the IZA network at an early stage as Research Affiliates, initially appointed for a period of two years. After receiving their Ph.D. and demonstrating an adequate publication record, they have the possibility to become Research Fellows. To learn more about the fellowship appointment procedure, please use the contact address below.

Contact: [Mark Fallak](mailto:fallak@iza.org) (fallak@iza.org)

How to participate in IZA research projects

IZA engages in a broad range of research projects in all fields of labor economics. The structure of IZA as a virtual research institute operating worldwide offers attractive potentials for intensive collaboration between the IZA core research team and the large network of IZA Research Fellows and Affiliates, not excluding other interested labor economists or experts in other social sciences. If you are interested in cooperating with us within a special research project or would like to know more about ongoing research activities in our seven research areas, please do not hesitate to contact our deputy program directors.

Contact: [IZA Program Directors/Deputies](#) (see above)

How to submit papers to the IZA Discussion Paper Series

Our discussion paper series is one of the most prominent working paper series in economics worldwide. It provides an ideal outlet for your research before it is published in a journal. As an IZA Research Fellow you can submit a paper through your personal page. After logging in with your username and password, simply click on “Submit DP”, fill in the online form and attach your paper. Our complete submission guidelines are downloadable from the IZA website.

Contact: **Mark Fallak** (fallak@iza.org)

How to submit papers to the Journal of Population Economics

The Journal of Population Economics, which is headquartered at IZA (www.popecon.org), is an international quarterly that publishes original theoretical and applied research and survey articles on topics dealing with broadly defined relationships between economic and demographic problems. Both extensive surveys of wider areas and shorter reviews of important new developments are considered for publication. The Journal of Population Economics also encourages the submission of shorter papers which are reviewed more rapidly.

Submissions should be sent by e-mail to popecon@iza.org.

Contact: **Zahra Siddique** (popecon@iza.org)

How to submit papers to the Research in Labor Economics Series

As the co-editor of Research in Labor Economics (RLE) IZA strongly encourages all labor economists to submit their work to this series publishing empirical and theoretical studies in the field as well as policy-oriented papers. More information about RLE, author’s guidelines and the online submission form are available at www.iza.org/rle.

Contact: **Konstantinos Tatsiramos** (tatsiramos@iza.org)

How to work with datasets available at IZA

IZA helps you find and gain access to German and international datasets relevant for labor market research in accordance with national and international legal requirements and under the provisions of user contracts. Successful arrangements for data access require special applications which interested researchers must send to IZA. Once access is approved by data providers, sensitive datasets can be analyzed through IZA’s email remote controlled job submission system or directly at IZA under our Guest Researcher Program. Current documentation of datasets already used by researchers at IZA can be found at <http://metadata.iza.org>

Contact: **Georgios Tassoukis** (tassoukis@iza.org)

How to update your web profile at IZA

In addition to IZA publications, our personal profile pages are among the most frequently accessed parts of our website. We try to provide up-to-date information on each fellow's research interests, contact details etc. But we also rely on you to update your personal page if your affiliation or other details have changed. To update your information, simply log in to your personal page and click on "Edit personal info" or "Edit profile page". Please also enter your research interests as they are a useful means to search for people in our "Who's Who".

Contact: [Mark Fallak](mailto:fallak@iza.org) (fallak@iza.org)

How to visit IZA as a Guest Researcher

A core part of IZA's activities is to provide a platform for discussion and cooperation within the research community. IZA therefore supports visits by Research Fellows, Affiliates and other economists specialized in the field of labor economics in order to:

- (a) give a presentation at the weekly IZA Seminar
- (b) work on joint projects with IZA researchers
- (c) work with sensitive datasets that can only be accessed from inside IZA
- (d) stay for a longer period as a Visiting Research Fellow.

If you have been officially invited to IZA as a guest researcher, the institute will provide free accommodation, office space and access to all internal IZA services. Certain restrictions may apply.

Contact: [Mathias Dolls](mailto:dolls@iza.org) (dolls@iza.org)

How to participate in the IZA European Summer School in Labor Economics

The call for applications for the yearly IZA Summer School is posted on the IZA web page, in specialized journals and at several economics departments around the world. It specifies the eligibility criteria and deadlines for application. Applicants must use the online form available at www.iza.org (click on *Teaching / IZA Summer School*).

Contact: [Anne Gielen](mailto:gielen@iza.org) (gielen@iza.org)

How to organize workshops at IZA

Our workshops provide an excellent opportunity to bring together experts on specific topics in labor economics. The calls for papers are sent out to the entire IZA network, reaching hundreds of labor economists worldwide. If you would like to (co-)organize a workshop at IZA, please discuss your proposal with the IZA Program Director who is responsible for your research area (see our Research Page for more info).

Contact: [Ulrike Maurer](mailto:maurer@iza.org) (maurer@iza.org)

How to search for research partners

Our list of research fellows is not only searchable by name, affiliation, or country, but also by research interests. In addition we have a searchable “Who’s Who in Labor Economics” directory featuring hundreds of labor economists. Please help us keep these lists up to date and make them more useful to others by entering or updating your own personal information and research interests.

Contact: [Mark Fallak](mailto:fallak@iza.org) (fallak@iza.org)

How to post announcements

We do not send out any unsolicited mailings to our network members. However, if you wish to communicate calls for papers, events, job openings or other relevant announcements to the community of labor economists, you can post a message on the IZA Black Board.

Contact: [Mark Fallak](mailto:fallak@iza.org) (fallak@iza.org)

How to save on books in labor economics

We have reached an agreement with Oxford University Press that all IZA network members receive a 20% discount on many social science titles published by OUP. The selection features a range of topical books, which will be updated on a regular basis.

Contact: [Holger Hinte](mailto:hinte@iza.org) (hinte@iza.org)