

CEBI

HIGHLIGHTS 2023

CENTER FOR
ECONOMIC
BEHAVIOR &
INEQUALITY

CEBI in research assessment

In a fresh UCPH research assessment of the Department of Economics, the evaluation panel describes the research output of CEBI as impressive and emphasizes the enormous potential for future research projects from the data infrastructure, which holds promise of a long-term stream of top quality output.

Publications in top academic journals

18 new research articles by CEBI members at UCPH were published or accepted for publication in 2023, which brings the total number of journal publications of CEBI up to 179. This includes 12 articles in the top-five journals in Economics as well as articles in top outlets of other disciplines and in general science journals. CEBI researchers have combined surveys, experiments, and administrative data to study various aspects of behavior during the Covid-19 pandemic. This includes previous CEBI research on ways to stimulate vaccine behavior published in *Science* by Florian Schneider and former CEBI researcher Pol Campos-Mercade together with coauthors. A key question is whether the provision of economic incentives to vaccinate will backfire in the long run due to negative unintended consequences, for example, that incentivized individuals will be less prone to vaccinate in the future if they are no longer receiving payment. Follow-up research published this year in *Nature* extends the original experiment to address this question and shows that the worry is unwarranted.

Start-up of new research plan

Many of the research projects outlined in the new research plan are well under way. In one project, Asger Lau Andersen, Niels Johannesen, and co-authors develop a new method, which, in combination with different types of microdata, makes it possible to follow the interaction of people's behavior at a granular level in the economy. This is, for example, critical for understanding how shocks transmit through the economy and affect economic inequality. This project has revise-and-resubmit status at one of the top-five journals (*Quarterly Journal of Economics*). Preliminary results from two other projects are published in the NBER working paper series. One of these projects studies the behavioral responses to redistribution policy, while the other project measures people's perceived risk of income losses, which theoretically is important for a number of economics decisions and outcomes.

Organization of major research events

Meltem Daysal and Mette Gørtz organized a three-day lecture series (the Zeuthen lectures) plus a workshop with Janet Currie who is a Professor at Princeton University and President of the American Economic Association. She talked about inequalities in child health and public policies to promote child health. The 2023 conference of the Society of Economics of the Household (SEHO) took place at UCPH. Mette Gørtz chaired the local organizing committee, which included nine CEBI members. The annual SEHO conference brings together

researchers working on household decision making. Together with Professor David Seim from Stockholm University, Claus Kreiner organized the inaugural Nordic Public Policy Symposium (NPPS) in Stockholm, which was cofounded by CEBI. Next year, NPPS will take place at CEBI and will feature external CEBI member Henrik Kleven from Princeton as a keynote speaker.

Research presentations at top places

CEBI researchers presented their research 112 times at conferences, workshop and seminars. This includes three presentations by Asger Andersen, Claus Kreiner and Søren Leth-Petersen at the annual CEPR flagship symposium in Paris and at the IFS Deaton Review Conference in London, a keynote talk by Niels Johannesen at a UNU-WIDER Conference as well as seminar presentations by CEBI members at Bocconi, Cambridge, London School of Economics, Oxford and UCL among many other places.

Organization of PhD courses

CEBI organized two PhD courses: One course was on Subjective Beliefs, Attention and Economic Behavior and taught by CEBI members Felix Chobra, Sonja Settle and Johannes Wohlfart together with Ingar Haaland from the CoE FAIR in Bergen and Christopher Roth from University of Cologne. The second course was on Survey Methodology and was taught by external CEBI member Thomas Epper together with Abi Adams-Prassl from Oxford University.

PhD students visit top research environments

Hjalte Boas and Lauge Larsen visited external CEBI member Gabriel Zucman at Paris School of Economics. Malene Laczek visited Professor Hamish Low at Oxford University. Camilla Christensen visited Professor Johannes Spinnewijn at London School of Economics. Louis Fréget visited Professor Petra Persson at Stanford University. Astrid Fugleholm visited Professor Maya Rossin-Slater also at Stanford University.

Policy maker interests in new CEBI research

CEBI researchers are invited to present their research to policy makers. For example, new research results (not yet published) about behavioral responses to taxation were presented at the Danish Ministry of Finance, as well as at a public hearing about accounting principles in the public sector organized by the Danish Economic Council. Other recent research results about the effects of new international measures to combat tax evasion behavior were presented in the Danish Tax Agency.

Christina Gravert invited by the UN

Christina Gravert were invited to talk at the FAO Science and Innovation forum of the United Nations about behavioral science as a tool to combat climate change.

CEBI research in the media

CEBI research results were covered in different media outlets. For example, results from three different CEBI research projects were covered on the frontpages of Weekendavisen, Jyllandsposten and Børsen.

Center for Economic Behavior and Inequality (CEBI) is a center-of-excellence at the University of Copenhagen, founded in 2017, financed by a grant from the Danish National Research Foundation. The goal of CEBI is to understand the role of behavior and attitudes of people for the formation of inequality in society in income, wealth and many other outcomes. More information can be found at www.econ.ku.dk/cebi.

