

Speaker: *Anna Bindler*

Presentation title: Discontinuities in the Age-Victimization Profile and the Determinants of Victimization

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Using register data for all reported victimizations in the Netherlands between 2005 and 2018 matched to national population registers, our paper starts with the observation that (over and above upward trends in victimization risk) there are sharp and discontinuous increases in victimization rates at exactly two points in the age-victimization profile: ages 16 and 18. Formal regression discontinuity analyses find that the chance of victimization (especially for property and other offenses) increases significantly by about 12% for males and 13% for females at age 16, and 9% for males and 15% for females at age 18, respectively. We hypothesize that these jumps are driven by ‘bundles’ of rights (e.g., driving or drinking alcohol) granted to individuals at ages 16 and 18. To start uncovering the mechanisms and the relative importance of these rights, we conduct heterogeneity analyses with respect to offense type and location and exploit variation across birth cohorts that stems from a 2014 reform of the minimum legal drinking age. Three conclusions can be drawn: The discontinuities in victimization risk are not driven by motor-vehicle related rights (mopeds at 16, motorcycles/ cars at 18) or the right to drop out of schools; access to ‘weak’ alcohol, tobacco and bars/clubs at age 16 plays a significant role; and the right to consume ‘hard’ alcohol at age 18 has an effect in and of itself. We plan to supplement this analysis with a difference-in-discontinuity design as well as out-of-sample first stage evidence from surveys on drinking and related behaviors. Finally, we will conclude with analyses of whether these increases in victimization risk are unequally distributed across socioeconomic characteristics.