

Speaker: *Lars Højsgaard Andersen*

Presentation title: How Does Visitation Affect Incarcerated Persons and Their Families? Estimates Using Exogenous Variation in Visits Driven by Distance Between Home and Prison

Co-authors: *Maria Fitzpatrick* (Cornell University and NBER, USA) and *Christopher Wildeman* (Duke University and ROCKWOOL Foundation Research Unit, USA)

Tens of millions of people in the world are incarcerated, which may have negative consequences for both them and their families. Visitation may mitigate the negative consequences, but there is little causally identified evidence on its efficacy. To generate plausibly causal estimates, we utilize the fact that inmates in Denmark are assigned to the prison with open capacity that is closest to their home. The distance-driven variation in visitation, coupled with Danish registry data, allows us to measure the effects of visitation on inmates and their families. We find little evidence that visitation has much effect on incarcerated individuals or on their family members.