

Speaker: *Anne Sofie Anker*

Presentation title: Crime and the Medical Treatment of ADHD

Attention-Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) is closely tied to crime and criminal justice contact. However, little attention has been directed at understanding whether medical treatment of ADHD symptoms may lessen a criminogenic effect of ADHD. This study examines whether consistent medical treatment of ADHD decreases the risk of crime. I utilize the fact that the medication does not work for a subgroup of the treated, and that this medical non-response occurs in a plausibly random manner. Using Danish administrative data and longitudinal data on purchased medication, I identify a group who most likely discontinue treatment due to medical non-response. I find that treatment discontinuation compared to following a consistent treatment pattern results in a 22% and 36% relative increase in the risk of being charged or convicted by age 18, respectively, after controlling for a wide range of covariates. These findings are indicative of a crime-reducing effect of treatment for those who qualify for and respond medically to ADHD treatment.