In the media

The Center’s all-industry research actively participates in public discussions and provides expert advice to government organizations and institutions.

Pandemic and Economics

Expert knowledge was once again in high demand during the second wave of the pandemic – especially in terms of the virus’s social and economic impact. Florian Schmitt contributed to the media on strong inequality as a result of the pandemic, stating that a social protection net is needed to prevent a pandemic’s negative effects from being concentrated at the bottom of society.

Economies between Health and Finance

Webcasts provided a comparison of the current situation with past pandemics, like the flu and the Spanish flu. While there are many similarities, they also consider alternative economic lenses – that is, following the Rostowian Treadmill – to be useful. The role of global economic processes was discussed and the US–China trade war was highlighted as one key factor that is likely to shape the direction of global trade for a long time to come.

Global minimum tax flip-flop

Florian Schmitt discussed new proposals for a global minimum tax, possible opportunities, and challenges for Switzerland, and what Switzerland and others need to ensure attractiveness in big corporate decisions.

Events 2021

Wirtschaftspodium Schloss Schwyz: Healthcare and pension provision

“It makes no sense to legally stipulate a compensation rate for the 2nd pillar, which is in fact influenced by financial markets and demographics.”

Healthcare

The pandemic is a stress test for the future social systems. How is the healthcare system performing? What does the extension for retirement provision – a common occurrence in Western-world pension schemes – look like in practice and what should we pay attention to?

Michele Striessnig, PhD - University of Zurich

Economics of global challenges

25.06.2021

Disappearing middle class

No Janssen

In his research, Prof. Ericsson-Blomdahl at the UBS Center, detected that in the last four decades, many industrialized economies have experienc ed the phenomenon of “job polarization,” where the demand on low and high-skill population working in the service sector has been linked to automation, which replaced specific skills. What happens to people who possess skills that are being replaced? What actions do governments have for coping with such changes?

The economic geography of global warming

Esben Storheiby

In an interview, Prof. Esben Storheiby at Aarhus University explained the large interregional impacts of climate change across regions. How people cope with global warming by engaging in trading and investing – crucially the effect of different policy actions.

Do giant firms undermine competition and social welfare?

Jan Strøm

“Fostering competition is the answer. We need more innovation and we need to make sure that startups have the possibility to flourish.”

In an era of technological progress and easy communication, it may seem reasonable to assume that the world’s working people have seen it all before. But changes are constant, and once again, economists have identified the need for reform. In his Public Paper, UBS researcher Udo Ortmann explains the need for regulatory reform to ensure competition and social welfare.

FORUM FOR ECONOMIC DIALOGUE

Sustainability and climate change

11.12.2021

“We all want to make this world a better place. We want to make an impact. To do that, we need good information and a good understanding of economic mechanisms.”

Robert-Jan Tijms

Sustainable financial systems are essential to meet the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals and to ensure the transition to a greener economy. In his Public Paper, Prof. Siegfried Bässler explains how we can best achieve the goals.

Public dialogue

The Center’s all-industry research actively participates in public discussions and provides expert advice to government organizations and institutions.

Spotlight 2021

The rise of superstar firms

“After the past 30 years, labor’s share of GDP in the United States and European countries has fallen. This means that a declining fraction of aggregate income is going to workers, while data reveals otherwise. This P derby by UBS Foundation Professor David Dracup explains the phenomenon by identifying so-called ‘superstar’ firms as drivers of the falling labor share.”

Impact of parental leave on companies

“Most of the existing evidence on the effectiveness of family-friendly policies stems from research on the impact on the families themselves, rather than the wider economic or social implications for employers or fellow workers. In contrast, this P olicy Brief by Anne Romer, Professor at the Department of Economics, University of Zurich, examines the consequences of a le- vel worker going birth and taking parent leave on her employer and on ourselves.”

Research

Top five publications

The Center’s researchers regularly publish their work in leading economics journals.


Economics. For Society.
A closer look

Center news

Committed to world-class research

Unlocking a new decade

With the end of the last, a whole decade has come to an end. The decade was marked by great opportunities and great challenges for research and the exchange with experts and the public, for young researchers and for the Center. Now it will be time to look back and forward. On this occasion, we will look back at the path we have been walking for so far. At the same time, we look ahead with certainty and full of hope, looking forward to further exciting projects, new insights, and inspiring moments.

The UBS Center for Economics in Society has gained two more valuable members who support our mission to make Zurich one of the best places for education and business. They are two more valuable members who support our mission to make Zurich one of the best places for education and business.

The UBS Center sees itself as a platform for inspiring encounters.

The Center’s advisory board, comprised of some of the most renowned economists of our time, including several Nobel Prize laureates, promotes the high-quality work at the UBS Center and provides guidance on all academic matters.

Events 2022

The Center’s events come in different formats, including two annual conferences with leading representatives from academia, politics, and public sector debating a key contemporary economic issue. The upcoming events feature key representatives from academia to voice their views in public speeches.

About us

UBS Center at a glance

The UBS Center for Economics in Society, UBS Center in short, is an Associated Institute at the Department of Economics of the University of Zurich. It was established in 2010 with the purpose of turning the bank into the economic center of the University, and it is supported by the bank. The UBS Center was founded in 2010.

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