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## ECONOMETRIC RESEARCH SEMINAR

- May 13, 2009, 11:15 am
- HS II  
Institut für Höhere Studien  
Stumpergasse 56, 1060 Wien

### **Michael Lechner,**

Swiss Institute for Empirical Economic Research (SEW) and  
University of St. Gallen:

### ***“A caseworker like me – does the similarity between the unemployed and their caseworkers increase job placements?”***

This paper examines whether the chances of job placements improve if unemployed persons are counselled by caseworkers who belong to the same social group, defined by gender, age, education, and nationality. Based on an unusually informative dataset, which links Swiss unemployed to their caseworkers, we find positive employment effects of about 3 percentage points if the caseworker and his unemployed client belong to the same social group. Coincidence in a single characteristic, e.g. same gender of caseworker and unemployed, does not lead to detectable effects on employment. These results, obtained by statistical matching methods, are confirmed by several robustness checks.

with Stefanie Behncke (Swiss Institute for Empirical Economic Research – SEW & University of St. Gallen ) and Markus Frölich (IZA, University of Mannheim and SEW).