Aline Bütikofer is a Professor at the Department of Economics at the Norwegian School of Economics. She holds a PhD in Economics from the University of Bern. Aline's work studies long-term effects of early investments in children, with a focus on identifying causal effects of policies such as infant health care, vaccination programs, school meals, and parental leave. In addition, her work analyzes the effect of medical innovations on productivity and human capital investment as well as the drivers of the gender pay gap.

Building Bridges and Widening Gaps

We study the labor market effects of gaining access to a larger labor market by exploiting the opening of the Øresund bridge, which connects a medium-sized city in Sweden to the capital city of Denmark. Using unique cross-country matched registry data that allow us to follow individuals across the border, we show that the bridge led to a substantial increase in the cross-country commuting behavior of Swedish residents. This effect translates into a 13% increase in the average wage of Swedish residents eight years after the bridge opened. However, these wage gains are unevenly distributed: the effect is largest for high-educated men and smallest for low-educated women. Thus, the wage gains come at the cost of increased income inequality and a widening of the gender wage gap, both within and across households. These inequality effects are driven not only by differences in the propensity to commute, but also by educational specialization.

Research Seminar Economics

You are cordially invited to the following seminar Thursday, 6 May from 12:15 – 13:15hrs, ONLINE via ZOOM

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