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Religion and Work:

Micro Evidence from Contemporary Germany*

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* I have benefitted from thoughtful comments by Gary Becker, Davide Cantoni, Dana Chandler, Tony Cookson, Roland Fryer, Steven Levitt, Derek Neal, Jared Rubin, and David Toniatti. I am also grateful to Davide Cantoni and Jared Rubin for sharing their data and computer programs. Steven Castongia provided excellent research assistance. All views expressed in this paper as well as any remaining errors are solely my responsibility. Correspondence can be addressed to the author at MEDS Department, Kellogg School of Management, 2001 Sheridan Road, Evanston, IL 60208; or by e-mail to j-spenkuch@kellogg.northwestern.edu.

HIGHLIGHTS:

• Novel instrumental variables strategy to address endogeneity of religious affiliation

• No evidence of an effect of Protestantism on wages

· However, Protestantism does appear to induce individuals to work longer hours

• Evidence points to a values-based explanation for the impact of Protestantism on labor market outcomes

Abstract

Using micro data from contemporary Germany, this paper studies the connection between Protestantism and modern-day labor market outcomes. To address the endogeneity in self-declared religion, I exploit a provision in a sixteenth-century peace treaty, which determined the geographic distribution of Catholics Download English Version:

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