

# The influence of Covid19 on the publication behaviour in economics

## Bibliometric evidence from five working paper series

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### **Extended abstract**

The emergence of the corona crisis has led to a substantial increase of articles in economics covering impacts in multi-dimensional ways. There have been investigations with respect to modelling infection rates, impact on the business cycles, effectiveness of containment measures, gender inequality, impact on individuals in many ways, just to name a few. As the demand for analyses was (and is) high, an often-used publication channel was pre-prints or working papers as it allows a rapid presentation to a general audience. Working papers have a long tradition in economics. Recently, preprints have become also more and more common in the natural sciences.

In this paper we analyse how the pandemic influenced the publication behaviour in area of economics. We consider articles published in five working paper series. Besides four prestigious ones with gated access for publishing (NBER, CESifo, CEPR and IZA) and we also include the Munich Personal Archive (MPRA) series, where no restrictions for publishing (besides some minimal formal ones). We use working papers instead of journal articles as the publication process in economics quite slow. We scrapped all meta-data from the RePEc website. This includes number of authors, JEL-Codes, abstract, citations and number of downloads. We

also collected the data from the years before the crises. Based on this information we want answer the following questions:

1. In what areas of economics were Covid-related studies published? We use the JEL codes for this analysis. Additionally, we search for keywords in the abstract and try to identify specific patterns, if available. Furthermore, we compare the JEL-Code distribution in 2020 with the years before and investigate whether there has been a (substantial) shift in the covered articles. Maybe there are some substitution effects.
2. How has co-authorship developed during the crisis? There is a persistent trend in multi-authored papers in economics over long period. Has this trend been enforced or reversed? Do Covid papers differ with respect to the number of authors?
3. Do Covid papers have been downloaded more compared to other economics papers after controlling for paper-specific effects?
4. How many working papers have already been published in journals?
5. How many citations have Covid papers received so far and how does it compare to non-Covid papers?

Besides descriptive statistics we also use regression analysis to uncover potential significant differences. We also investigate if there are differences between the considered working paper series.