Olle Törnquist

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Personal Website

Education

Uppsala University, Uppsala, Sweden
Ph.D, Economics, 2022- 2027 (Expected).
Dissertation topic: Unemployment Insurance and Organized Labor.
Advisors: Jan Sauermann (main) and Lena Hensvik.

Boston University, Boston, MA, USA
Visiting Scholar, 2025
Host: Johannes Schmieder

Stockholm School of Economics, Stockholm, Sweden
M.Sc, Economics, 2022

Lund University, Lund, Sweden
B.Sc, Politics and Economics, 2020

Teaching Experience

Introductory Microeconomics
Teaching Assistant, with Richard Friberg, at SSE. 2020-2021

Introductory Macroeconomics
Teaching Assistant, with Stefan Eriksson and Tomas Guvå, at UU. 2023-2026

Ph.D. Microeconomics I(Choices and Preferences)
Teaching Assistant, with Torben Mideksa and Cheng-Zhuang Li, at UU. 2023, 2024

Ph.D. Microeconomics II (Game Theory)
Teaching Assistant, with Henk Schouten, at UU. 2024

Ph.D. Microeconomics III (Contract Theory)
Teaching Assistant, with Ola Andersson, Cheng-Zhuang Li and Henk Schouten, at UU. 2024

Work experience

Nacka Municipality, 2020-2022

Investigator at the City Hall Staff.

Stockholm School of Economics, 2021-2022

Research Assistant.

Selected work in progress

Törnquist, Olle: Two-Tiered Unionization and the Local Labor Market. Job market paper. Draft

Abstract: *What makes workers organize themselves in a context where free-riding is easy? I investigate drivers of unionization in the Swedish labor market, characterized by near-universal collective bargaining agreement coverage and strong sectoral unions. Workers can opt for plant-level unionization in order to adapt national agreements to the local level. I develop a model where the level of bargaining is an endogenous choice on the worker side to extract theoretical predictions with regards to why plant-level and sectoral bargaining yield different resource allocations, and how worker preferences over these levels shift. I show that local unionization is more flexible in adapting to local circumstances, and serves as a mode of insurance in economic downturns. It follows that local unionization should be a decreasing function of employed workers' outside options. I confirm this prediction using data on plant-level union chapters combined with administrative data. Utilizing notices of mass layoffs within the local labor markets as negative shocks to incumbent workers, I employ a matched difference-in-differences design to find that unionization increases at surrounding plants, a result stemming from more union members among incumbents. Local union chapters serve as a mechanism through which workers can effectively insure themselves, and their propensity to utilize that tool depends on the value of their outside options.*

Hällerfors, Henrik & Törnquist, Olle: Worker Representation and Local Union Bargaining

Abstract: *A common feature in labor market models is that matches are sustained as long as the joint surplus in non-negative. Yet, a growing body of literature implies the existence of inefficient separations, an issue that can be amplified by rigid employment protection legislation. We study the Swedish case, where plant-level union organizations allow for direct negotiations between the worker collective and the employer in mass layoffs, effectively circumventing central legislation. Using a novel collected dataset on union representation, we use a matched difference-in-differences specification to find that unionized plants exhibit 11% larger aggregate employment retention in mass layoffs, without compromising the economic performance of the plant. We suggest that this stems from compositional effects in that the union organizations facilitate flexibility in who gets laid off, allowing for more efficient separations.*

Butschek, Sebastian; Sauermann, Jan & Törnquist, Olle: Unemployment Insurance and Labor Reallocation

Selected presentations

EALE 2026, IAB 7th Workshop on Evaluation of Passive and Active Labor Market Policies 2025, 9th Swedish Conference in Economics 2026, Boston University 2025, UCLS Summer Meeting 2026.

Refereeing

ILR Review

Grants

Hedelius Research Grant for Graduate Studies Abroad, 2023, SEK 300 000.
Siamon Foundation Grant for Conference Participation, SEK, 2025&2026 35 000.

Other activities

Board member of the Ph.D. Association, 2022-
Economics representative to the UU Social Sciences Ph.D. Council, 2022-2025
Organizer of interdisciplinary UCLS Ph.D Workshop, 2024
Volunteer at Uppsala Math Centre, 2022-2026

Affiliations

UCLS, ULG

Languages

Native Swedish, fluent English. Good in Stata, R, Matlab, TeX and Python.