



## EINLADUNG ZUR NÄCHSTEN VERANSTALTUNG DES POTSDAM RESEARCH SEMINAR IN ECONOMICS

Wir laden Sie herzlich zur nächsten Veranstaltung des Potsdam Research Seminar in Economics am **13.10.2015** ein.

Das Seminar findet von **14.00 bis 16.00 Uhr** (c.t.) in Raum **3.06.S 27** statt.

Referentin:

**Dr. Hannah Schildberg-Hörisch**  
**Universität Bonn**

Thema des Vortrages:

**Choosing the right challenge**

Abstract:

In this paper, we propose a new explanation why some individuals accomplish more than others with equal abilities. We argue that the skill to select the level of challenge that is appropriate to individual ability is key to whether individuals live up to their potential. We introduce a novel experiment design ("marble game") to measure this skill and collect data on 607 German elementary school children. Motivated by the literature on self-regulated learning, we first provide evidence on the predictive power of the skill to select the adequate challenge as measured in the marble game for important outcomes outside the laboratory, children's math and German grades. We then document that children from families with lower socio-economic status (SES) are worse at selecting appropriate challenges than their high SES counterparts. Finally, we provide causal evidence on a randomly assigned intervention that is able to improve low SES children's skill to select appropriate challenges and closes the respective gap between low and high SES children. The intervention under study is a one year, one-to-one mentoring program. Our results on the skill to select the appropriate challenges point at its relevance for explaining differences in low and high SES children's achievement and provide evidence on its malleability that we deem highly policy relevant.

Wir freuen uns auf Ihre Teilnahme.

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