

TRANS-ATLANTIC PUBLIC ECONOMICS SEMINAR

Public Policy and Retirement Behavior

Call for Papers

On June 15-17, 2006, the National Bureau of Economic Research jointly with Uppsala University will sponsor the next Trans-Atlantic Public Economics Seminar, which will take place in Uppsala, Sweden. The program, to be organized by Sören Blomquist of Uppsala University and Roger Gordon of the University of California, San Diego and NBER, will consist of twelve papers and two formal discussants for each paper. Papers from the conference will be considered for a special issue of the *Journal of Public Economics*, subject to the normal refereeing process.

The conference will focus on positive and normative studies of public policies that affect retirement behavior, including Social Security, Medical Insurance, Unemployment Insurance and Disability Insurance programs. These programs constitute a large and growing share of government expenditures, and can have major impacts on macroeconomic performance as well as on individual behavior, including in particular the age of retirement and savings rates. The relative tax treatment of the retired vs. the working population can also have important economic effects, as can the incentives created by occupational pensions. The efficiency and distributional effects of these policies can depend on the proposed explanation for the frequently observed low savings rates prior to retirement and the steady drop in retirement ages in spite of increasing longevity.

Emphasis will be on empirically oriented research, but applied theoretical research is also welcome. Preference will be given to papers by younger authors. Papers will be selected on the basis of abstracts of about 750 words or, when possible, completed papers. The deadline for submission is September 1, 2005. Authors chosen to present papers will be notified by November 1, 2005. Travel and local expenses for participants will be covered. Europeans should send submit their abstracts to Sören Blomquist, while North Americans should submit them to Roger Gordon, at the following addresses:

Sören Blomquist
Department of Economics
Uppsala University
P.O. Box 513
SE 751 20 Uppsala
Sweden
Tel: +46-18-471-1102
Fax: +46-18-471-1478
Email: soren.blomquist@nek.uu.se

Roger Gordon
Department of Economics
University of California, San Diego
9500 Gilman Drive – Dept. 0508
La Jolla, CA 92093-0508
Tel: (858) 534-4828
Fax: (858)-534-7040
Email: rogordon@ucsd.edu