

Transcript: "Our research shapes policy" - Department of Public Economics and the Gender Economics Research Group

[German video, English subtitles]

Katharina Wrohlich: The DIW offers the opportunity to conduct excellent research while simultaneously being particularly interesting for those interested in communicating these research findings to the public.

Peter Haan: With our results, we can actually approach politicians, advise them, and explain what we've learned from our findings, thus influencing policy.

Katharina Wrohlich: Yes, excellence in research is important, particularly because you can only gain public recognition as an expert in the field, based on the recognition of the academic community.

Peter Haan: For scientific excellence, it's essential to engage in exchange and discussion with a wide range of people in various formats. This is truly vital because it allows us to participate more deeply in the scientific discourse than if we were to remain confined to our own institute.

Katharina Wrohlich: For many years, we've been analyzing specific developments in the area of pay inequality, specifically the gender pay gap. What motivates me is that I'm seeing real progress in this area. Some of these inequalities are diminishing. Nevertheless, I still see that there's a long way to go, and we are still far from true equality, economic equality, in many areas. A second thing that motivates me greatly, besides the content itself, is the excellent collaboration with my colleagues, not only in my research group but throughout the entire Public Economics Department.

Peter Haan: For almost 20 years, I've headed the department, and I thoroughly enjoy it. It's a very demanding and rewarding role because it combines two things: On the one hand, academic work, i.e., conducting analyses to really show the causal effects of reforms. And secondly, it's very politically relevant. We examine reforms that have actually been implemented, such as pension reforms, like the retirement age of 67, which is currently being introduced.

Katharina Wrohlich: An important multiplier, of course, is the media. Journalists contact us directly, very often in response to specific reports we publish. We have a very dedicated Press Department here at the institute that accompanies these reports with a wealth of material for the press.

Peter Haan: And we do this in various ways. Firstly, it's crucial that we publish the DIW's Weekly Report, in which we describe our findings from scientific work in a way that is easily understandable to the general public and uses concrete examples. This report is frequently

featured in newspapers. We also give interviews across all media platforms. It's a very important aspect for us that we don't just write about science for the ivory tower and academic discussions, but also directly inform the public.