



**CEBRIG**

CENTRE EMILE BERNHEIM  
DE RECHERCHE INTERDISCIPLINAIRE  
EN GESTION



**Solvay Brussels School**  
Economics & Management

## **BBS** **BROWN BAG SEMINARS**

# **PIERRE-GUILLAUME MEON**

# **DOES INFORMATION ABOUT THE INFLATION RATE AFFECT LAYPERSONS' TRUST IN THE EUROPEAN CENTRAL BANK ?**

## **EVIDENCE FROM A RANDOMIZED CONTROLLED TRIAL**

Using an RCT in a representative survey on the German population conducted in 2018, we study whether providing information about the ECB's inflation record in comparison to its inflation target affects people's trust in the central bank. The treatment, which was administered to half of the roughly 2000 respondents, consists in a graph showing the annual inflation rate in the euro area from 1999 to 2017 and the ECB's 2% inflation target. We find that the treatment has, on average, no significant effect on the level of ECB trust or on the distribution of answers. However, the treatment increases trust in the ECB among respondents who report no preference for any political party. Within this group, the effect is the strongest for those who reported biased beliefs about the inflation rate but knew that price stability is the ECB's objective, report a low level of subjective and objective knowledge about monetary policy.

[www.cebrig-ulb.be](http://www.cebrig-ulb.be)

[www.cermi.eu](http://www.cermi.eu)