



Fachbereich VWL / Department of Economics

EconNewsletter

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NOVEMBER 7 – NOVEMBER 11, 2016

NEWSLETTER 2016-21

SEMINAR CALENDAR

Research Seminar “Labour Economics”

Mario Mechtel, Leuphana Universität Lüneburg:
*Forced to Be Generous - Experimental Evidence on the
Behavioral Effects of Minimum Wages Outside the Laboratory*

Monday November 7
16:30-18:00
R. 0029 (VMP 5)

Forschungsseminar “Quantitative Wirtschaftsforschung“

Burkhard Rauni, Österreichische Nationalbank:
*Economic Policy Uncertainty and the Volatility of
Sovereign CDS Spreads*

Tuesday November 8
12:15–13:45
R. 0029 (VMP 5)

Hamburg Lectures on Law & Economics

Prof. Hans Pitlik, WiFo, Wien:
*Who approves of the TTIP? The roles of institutional trust
and political mobilization*

Wednesday November 9
18:15–19:45
R. 1083a (VMP 5)

PhD Seminar

Verena Pagels, Universität Hamburg:
*Cautionary Tales: Celebrities, the News Media,
and Usage of Tax Amnesty Programs*

Thursday November 10
12:15–13:15
R. 0029 (VMP 5)

Research Seminar “Microeconomics”

Roberto A. Weber, University of Zurich:
Do Gender Preference Gaps Impact Policy Outcomes?

Thursday November 10
17:15–18:45
R. 0029 (VMP 5)

HCHE Research Seminar

- no seminar -

ABSTRACTS

Hamburg Lectures on Law & Economics

Prof. Hans Pitlik, WiFo, Wien:

Who approves of the TTIP? The roles of institutional trust and political mobilization

Abstract:

There is evidence that people vote for corrupt candidates even when they have information that their representatives have misbehaved in the past. We propose that ideology is an important factor explaining this voting behavior, and we tested two psychological mechanisms for this effect through an experimental approach conducted among Facebook users. We found that ideology strongly predicts voting for a corrupt candidate. We also identified evidence for two complementary psychological mechanisms: a cognitive cost-benefit tradeoff and a change in perception. Our results hold for two different types of corruption: nepotism and money. Policy preference formation has become a major subject of empirical political, sociological and economic research. Evidence clearly shows that attitudes regarding economic policies and redistribution are not only shaped by narrow personal self-interest, but even stronger so by core values, beliefs, and psychological traits. In 2013, the European Union and the United States initiated a political dialogue regarding a further deepening of their trade and investment relations, the TTIP (Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership). The paper is concerned with the individual determinants of public support for the TTIP between the European Union and the United States. We focus on the role of trust in companies and in national and European political institutions in 28 EU Member States for attitude formation. Using data from a Eurobarometer Survey it is shown that disapproval is highly correlated with a lack of trust in European institutions and in bigger companies. Results indicate that anti-TTIP political campaigning is strongly associated with TTIP disapproval.

PhD Seminar

Verena Pagels, Universität Hamburg:

Cautionary Tales: Celebrities, the News Media, and Usage of Tax Amnesty Programs

Abstract:

This study investigates effects of news media on tax payers. Media reports likely affect evaluations of the probability of detection of tax evasion and the severity of penalties, as well as knowledge about legal and illegal behaviors. We compile an original data set for Germany, including regional information on the amounts of tax payers using amnesty regulations to voluntarily disclose taxes they have evaded. The data set also includes counts of news reports published by 6 national and 54 local newspapers, addressing topics related to tax evasion. We exploit exogenous variation in the news coverage resulting from public trials for tax evasion by celebrities to identify the causal effect. According to our baseline specification, instrumental variable estimates indicate that a one standard deviation increase in tax evasion coverage raises the number of self-denunciations by 38%. This finding helps to better understand the effectiveness of tax amnesty programs, and it illustrates the economic implications of publicly trying famous personalities.

Research Seminar “Microeconomics”

Roberto A. Weber, University of Zurich:

Do Gender Preference Gaps Impact Policy Outcomes?

Abstract:

A large body of evidence documents systematic gender differences in a variety of important economic preferences, such as risk-taking, competition and redistribution. One potential implication of this literature is that increased female representation in decision-making bodies may significantly affect organizational and policy outcomes. However, research has not established a direct connection from individual gender preference differences to voting over policy and the resulting outcomes. We conduct a laboratory experiment to provide an initial test of such a direct connection. In small laboratory “societies,” people repeatedly vote for a redistribution policy and engage in a real-effort production task. In this environment, we demonstrate that gender gaps in economic preferences produce substantial differences in early voting behavior, with women voting for significantly more redistribution. However, differences between male- and female-controlled groups are smaller than the mean individual differences, a natural consequence of the aggregation of individual preferences into collective outcomes. Gender voting gaps persist with repetition and experience, though part of the gap we observe is accounted for by differences in task productivity. Moreover, the gender voting gap is substantial only in a context involving risk. While we find clear evidence of a direct connection between gender-based preference gaps and voting behavior, the direct consequences of pure gender preference gaps for collective decision making may depend on contextual features.

ACTIVITIES OF DEPARTMENT MEMBERS

New Publications

- Muehlheusser, G., Schneemann, S., Sliwka, D. and Wallmeier, N. (2016): The Contribution of Managers to Organizational Success: Evidence from German Soccer, in: Journal of Sports Economics, forthcoming.

The next EconNewsletter will be published on Monday, November 14, 2016.

Editorial deadline: Friday, November 11, 2016.

EconNewsletter

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