



Fachbereich VWL / Department of Economics

EconNewsletter

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DECEMBER 11 – DEZEMBER 15, 2017

NEWSLETTER 2017-27

SEMINAR CALENDAR

HCHE Research Seminar

Dr. Hannes Schwandt, Universität Zürich:
*The lasting legacy of seasonal influenza:
In-utero exposure and labor market outcomes*

Monday December 11
16:30-18:00
R. 4011 (Esplanade 36)

Forschungsseminar “Quantitative Wirtschaftsforschung“

Marc Klemp, Brown Univ./Copenhagen Universität:
Roots of Autocracy

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

Forschungsseminar “Environmental Economics and Management“

Markus Ohndorf, University of Innsbruck:
The provision of public goods under incomplete enforcement

Wednesday December 13
12:15–13:45
R. 0029 (VMP 5)

Hamburg Lectures on Law & Economics

Prof. Thomas Hale, University of Oxford:
*Pathways through Gridlock in International Economic Law:
Resilience, Innovation, Agency*

Wednesday November 13
ACHTUNG: 16:15–17:45
R. 1083a (VMP 5)

PhD Seminar

Eva Markowsky, Universität Hamburg:
*Speaking of Gender:
Does Language Affect Labor Market Outcomes?*

Thursday December 14
12:15–13:15
R. 0029 (VMP 5)

Research Seminar “Labour Economics”

- no seminar -

Research Seminar “Microeconomics”

- no seminar -

Sollten Sie Interesse haben, sich mit einem/r der Vortragenden zu treffen, wenden Sie sich bitte an den entsprechenden Veranstalter. Weitere Infos finden Sie auf unserer Homepage: <https://www.wiso.uni-hamburg.de/fachbereich-vwl/forschung/forschungsseminare.html>

ABSTRACTS

HCHE Research Seminar

Dr. Hannes Schwandt, Universität Zürich:

The lasting legacy of seasonal influenza: In-utero exposure and labor market outcomes

Abstract:

Pregnancy conditions have been shown to matter for later economic success, but many threats to fetal development that have been identified are difficult to prevent. In this paper I study seasonal influenza, a preventable illness that comes around every year and causes strong inflammatory responses in pregnant women. Using administrative data from Denmark, I identify the effects of maternal influenza on the exposed offspring via sibling comparison, exploiting both society-wide influenza spread and information on individual mothers who suffer strong infections during pregnancy. In the short term, maternal influenza leads to a doubling of prematurity and low birth weight, by triggering premature labor among women infected in the third trimester. Following exposed offspring into young adulthood, I observe a 9% earnings reduction and a 35% increase in welfare dependence. These long-term effects are strongest for influenza infections during the second trimester and they are partly explained by a decline in educational attainment, pointing to cognitive impairment. This effect pattern suggests that maternal influenza damages the fetus through multiple mechanisms, and much of the damage may not be visible at birth. Taken together, these results provide evidence that strong infections during pregnancy are an often overlooked prenatal threat with long-term consequences.

Forschungsseminar “Quantitative Wirtschaftsforschung“

Marc Klemp, Brown Univ./Copenhagen Universität:

Roots of Autocracy

Abstract:

This research explores the origins of the variation in the prevalence and nature of political institutions across globe. It advances the hypothesis and establishes empirically that variation in the inherent diversity across human societies, as determined in the course of the exodus of Homo sapiens from Africa tens of thousands of years ago, shaped the nature of political institutions across regions and societies. The study establishes that, while human diversity has amplified the beneficial effects of institutions, mitigating the adverse effects of non-cohesiveness, its simultaneous contribution to heterogeneity in cognitive and physical traits has fostered the scope for domination, leading to the formation and persistence of autocratic institutions. A larger degree of human diversity within societies diminished cohesiveness and therefore stimulated the emergence of institutions that have mitigated the adverse effects of non-cohesiveness on productivity. However, the dual impact of human diversity on the emergence of inequality and class stratification have diverted the nature of the emerging institutions towards extractive, autocratic ones. Developing a novel geo-referenced dataset of genetic diversity and ethnographic characteristics among ethnic groups across the globe, the

analysis establishes that genetic diversity contributed to the emergence of autocratic pre-colonial institutions. Moreover, the findings suggest that the contribution of diversity to these pre-colonial autocratic institutions has plausibly operated through its dual effect on the formation of institutions and class stratification. Furthermore, reflecting the persistence of institutional, cultural, and genetic characteristics, the spatial distribution of genetic diversity across the globe has contributed to the contemporary variation in the degree of autocracy across countries.

Hamburg Lectures on Law & Economics

Prof. Thomas Hale, University of Oxford:

Pathways through Gridlock in International Economic Law: Resilience, Innovation, Agency

Abstract:

Across many areas of global governance, international cooperation has become gridlocked in the face of long-term structural trends such as multipolarity, growing complexity, institutional inertia, and fragmentation. While these factors, which manifest to varying degrees across all areas of international economic law, are pervasive, and help explain a broad set of challenges facing the world economy, they are not necessarily determinative. Indeed, systematic pathways through and even beyond this gridlock exist, highlighting the ways in which global economic governance can be resilient and adaptive, and the conditions under which the agency of states and other actors can have meaningful impacts in spite of—or, sometimes, even due to—structural barriers to cooperation.

PhD Seminar

Eva Markowsky, Universität Hamburg:

Speaking of Gender: Does Language Affect Labor Market Outcomes?

Abstract:

We exploit variation in age of 1.5th generation immigrants at the time of arrival in European host countries and host country languages to identify the causal effect of cross-linguistic differences in gender marking on labor market behavior. Languages differ in their use of grammatical gender and the linguistic representation of biological sex in their grammar. While some languages do not feature grammatical gender at all, others require frequent reference to biological sex. These cross-linguistic differences in gender marking could affect cognition and thereby ultimately influence individual economic behavior. Linguists have theorized that the mandatory categorization by sex in a language can impact on speakers' cognitive patterns. From a behavioral economics perspective, the effect on behavior can be characterized as continuous cognitive gender priming. In this paper, we test the hypothesis that speaking languages with stronger gender marking has a causal effect on cognition and behavior, leading to more gender-stereotypical labor market outcomes. To this aim, we study the labor market behavior of immigrants who arrived in their host countries before age 14 to avoid self-selection. We employ a difference-in-differences approach and compare respondents in host countries with either gendered or neutral languages that arrived at the destination

before or after a certain age threshold. Our results indicate that migrating to a host country with gender neutral language at a young age leads to less gender stereotypical labor market behavior for women.

ACTIVITIES OF DEPARTMENT MEMBERS

Miscellaneous

- We welcome Ralph-Christopher Bayer (University of Adelaide) who will be visiting the Department of Economics from DEC 12 until DEC 15.
<https://www.adelaide.edu.au/directory/ralph.bayer>
Ralph's main field of expertise is behavioral economics. He will be in room 2084, so everyone interested in meeting him can get in touch.
- Professor Jason Brennan (Georgetown University) gives a talk on
“Why Politics Makes Us Mean and Dumb”
in the first "PEP Weihnachtsvorlesung" on Wednesday, December 13, 18-20h, ESA 1, Hörsaal A. Brennan is author of “Against Democracy” which has been translated into German and has received quite a bit of media Echo here in Germany. The lecture is open to everyone.

The next EconNewsletter will be published on Monday December 18, 2017.

Editorial deadline: Friday, December 15, 2017.

EconNewsletter

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