



Fachbereich VWL / Department of Economics

EconNewsletter

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JULY 2 – JULY 6, 2018

NEWSLETTER 2018-16

SEMINAR CALENDAR

Research Seminar “Labour Economics”

André Gröger, Universität Autònoma de Barcelona:
*Searching for a Better Life: Predicting International Migration
with Online Search Keywords*

Monday July 2
16:30-18:00
R. 0029 (VMP 5)

Forschungsseminar “Quantitative Wirtschaftsforschung“

Sebastian Laumer, Universität of Illinois:
*Consumption after a Fiscal Policy Shock - A FAVAR Analysis
with Zero and Sign Restrictions*

Tuesday July 3
12:15–13:45
R. 0029 (VMP 5)

Hamburg Lectures on Law & Economics

Prof. Thomas Miceli, University Connecticut:
The Use of Economics for Understanding Law: A Guided Tour

Wednesday July 4
18:15–19:45
R. 1083a (VMP 5)

Research Seminar “Microeconomics”

Hendrik Rommeswinkel, University Taiwan:
Measuring Freedom in Games

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

PhD Seminar

- no seminar -

HCHE Research Seminar

- no seminar -

ABSTRACTS

Research Seminar “Labour Economics”

André Gröger, Universität Autònoma de Barcelona:

Searching for a Better Life: Predicting International Migration with Online Search Keywords

Abstract:

Migration data remains scarce, largely inconsistent across countries, and often outdated, particularly in the context of developing countries. Rapidly growing internet usage around the world provides geo-referenced online search data that can be exploited to measure migration intentions in origin countries in order to predict subsequent outflows. We propose a novel and direct measure of migration intentions using aggregate online search intensities, measured by the Google Trends Index (GTI) for migration related search terms. Based on fixed effects panel models of migration as well as machine learning and prediction techniques, we show that our approach yields substantial predictive power for international migration flows, while reducing prediction errors considerably. We provide evidence based on survey data that our measures indeed reflect genuine emigration intentions. Our findings contribute to different literature by providing 1) a novel way for the measurement of migration intentions, 2) an approach to generate close to real-time predictions of current migration flows ahead of official statistics, and 3) an improvement in the performance of conventional migration models that involve prediction tasks, such as in the first stage of a linear instrumental variable regression.

Research Seminar “Microeconomics”

Hendrik Rommeswinkel, University Taiwan:

Measuring Freedom in Games

Abstract:

The paper axiomatizes a measure of freedom for extensive form games. The central idea of the measure is that freedom is increasing in the degree to which an agent's outcomes are determined by the agent's preferences. The measure generalizes several measures from the opportunity set based freedom literature to situations where agents interact. This allows freedom to be measured in general economic models and thus derive policy recommendation based on the freedom instead of the welfare of agents. To illustrate this, optimal libertarian income tax progression policies are derived in a production economy with heterogeneous agents.

ACTIVITIES OF DEPARTMENT MEMBERS

Miscellaneous

- We welcome Prof. Hong Hwang from the National Taiwan University (www.coss.ntu.edu.tw/en/8/Hong-Hwang-33048214) who will visit the department throughout the whole month of July 2018.

His main fields of research are Industrial Organization, International Trade and Regional Economics and he will give a talk in the microeconomics seminar. During his visit, he will use office 2090 (VMP5). Everyone interested can get in touch with him directly via email to: echong@ntu.edu.tw.

The next EconNewsletter will be published on Monday, July 9, 2018.

Editorial deadline: Friday, July 6, 2018.

EconNewsletter

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