



Fachbereich VWL / Department of Economics

EconNewsletter

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JANUARY 15 – JANUARY 19, 2018

NEWSLETTER 2018-2

SEMINAR CALENDAR

Research Seminar “Labour Economics”

Sarah Langlotz, Universität Heidelberg:

Opium Cultivation and the Geography of Conflict in Afghanistan

Monday January 15

16:30-18:00

R. 0029 (VMP 5)

Forschungsseminar “Quantitative Wirtschaftsforschung“

Sebastian Gryglewicz, Erasmus Universität Rotterdam:

Growth Options, Incentives, and Pay-for-Performance:

Theory and Evidence

Tuesday January 16

12:15–13:45

R. 0029 (VMP 5)

Hamburg Lectures on Law & Economics

Prof. Ran Hirschl, Universität Göttingen:

The Epistemology and Methodologies of Comparative

Constitutional Law

Wednesday January 17

18:15–19:45

R. 1083a (VMP 5)

PhD Seminar

Mitra Yousefimashhour, Universität Hamburg:

Capitalist development and democracy in the case of Iran

Thursday January 18

12:15–13:15

R. 0029 (VMP 5)

Research Seminar “Microeconomics”

Bettina Klaus, Universität Lausanne:

Top Trading Cycles, Consistency, and Acyclic Priorities for

House Allocation with Existing Tenants

Thursday January 18

17:15–18:45

R. 0029 (VMP 5)

HCHE Research Seminar

- no seminar -

Forschungsseminar “Environmental Economics and Management“

- 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

Research Seminar “Labour Economics”

Sarah Langlotz, Universität Heidelberg:

Opium Cultivation and the Geography of Conflict in Afghanistan

Abstract:

To shed more light on the resource-conflict-nexus, we examine how the cultivation of opium, an illegal renewable resource, affects the geography of conflict in Afghanistan. Our identification strategy exploits temporal variation in international drug prices with spatial variation in land suitability for cultivating opium to identify the causal effect of drug cultivation on conflict. Theoretically, opium cultivation can increase the opportunity costs of fighting, but it may also finance rebel groups who offer protection against eradication and expropriation. Using data from the UCDP Georeferenced Event Dataset to measure the intensity of conflict at the district-level, our results show that opium cultivation has a de-escalating effect on conflict over the 2002-2014 period both in a reduced-form and instrumental variable setting. Two explanations of this finding are that opium is relatively labor intensive and that violent competition among producers seems comparably low. The latter explanation is supported by evidence that the conflict-reducing effect is stronger in districts that account for a higher share of value-added along the production chain.

Forschungsseminar “Quantitative Wirtschaftsforschung“

Sebastian Gryglewicz, Erasmus Universität Rotterdam:

Growth Options, Incentives, and Pay-for-Performance Theory and Evidence

Abstract:

We model the investment and cash policies of a firm facing financing frictions, transitory cash flow shocks, and permanent productivity shocks. While cash holdings increase and investment and Tobin’s q decrease with the volatilities of either type of shocks, a higher correlation between these shocks makes the firm hold less cash, invest more, and become more valuable. We verify these predictions on a large sample of U.S. firms using estimates of permanent and transitory cash flow shocks obtained via structural estimation. Our results suggest that corporate policies and valuations are better understood when distinguishing between permanent and transitory cash flow shocks.

Hamburg Lectures on Law & Economics

Prof. Ran Hirschl, Universität Göttingen:

The Epistemology and Methodologies of Comparative Constitutional Law

Abstract:

Comparative constitutionalism has developed into one of the more vibrant and exciting subjects in contemporary legal scholarship, and has become a cornerstone of constitutional jurisprudence and constitution-making in an increasing number of countries worldwide. In this chapter, written for the Cambridge Companion of Comparative Constitutional Law (2018), I suggest that despite this tremendous renaissance, and in stark contrast to other areas of research that define themselves as comparative, the methodological, research-design, case selection and data analysis aspects of comparative constitutional inquiry—how should we study constitutionalism as a distinct phenomenon with multiple forms and manifestations across time and place—remain largely undertheorized and until recently, seldom discussed. Ultimately it is the comparative element that separates comparative constitutional law from its older, more established, supposedly self-contained and undoubtedly less cosmopolitan sibling—constitutional law. Hence, an understanding of the “comparative” in comparative constitutional law—its various rationales, methods, limitations and possibilities, alongside the contours and contents of the audacious comparativist’s cross-disciplinary toolkit—is essential for the field’s renaissance to persist.

PhD Seminar

Mitra Yousefimashhour, Universität Hamburg:

Capitalist development and democracy in the case of Iran

Abstract:

I aim to re-establish the institutional link between capitalist development and democratization based on three clusters that represent the power structure: namely, class structure and class coalitions, state-civil society relations and transnational power relations.

Research Seminar “Microeconomics”

Bettina Klaus, Universität Lausanne:

Top Trading Cycles, Consistency, and Acyclic Priorities for House Allocation with Existing Tenants

Abstract:

We study the house allocation with existing tenants model (introduced by Abdulkadiroglu and Sonmez, 1999) and consider rules that allocate houses based on priorities. We introduce a new acyclicity requirement for the underlying priority structure which is based on the acyclicity conditions by Ergin (2002) and Kesten (2006) for house allocation with quotas and without existing tenants. We show that for house allocation with existing tenants a top trading cycles rule is consistent if and only if its underlying priority structure satisfies our acyclicity condition. Moreover, even if no priority structure is a priori given, we show that a rule is a top trading cycles rule based on ownership adapted acyclic priorities if and only if it satisfies Pareto-optimality, individual-rationality, strategy-proofness, reallocation-proofness, and consistency.

The next EconNewsletter will be published on Monday January 22, 2018.

Editorial deadline: Friday, January 19, 2018.

EconNewsletter

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