SEMINAR CALENDAR

Forschungsseminar “Environmental Economics and Management“
Julia Blasch, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam: Wednesday January 24
Narrowing the energy efficiency gap: The impact of educational programs, online support tools and energy-related investment literacy
12:15–13:45
R. 0029 (VMP 5)

Hamburg Lectures on Law & Economics
Prof. Matthias Kumm, WZB Center for Global Constitutionalism: Wednesday January 24
Deep Disagreement in Public Law
18:15–19:45
R. 1083a (VMP 5)

Research Seminar “Microeconomics“
Subhasish M. Chowdhury, Universität Bath: Thursday January 25
Pre-planning and its Effects on Repeated Dishonest Behavior:
17:15–18:45
An Experiment AND: The Central Influencer Theorem
R. 0029 (VMP 5)

HCHE Research Seminar
- no seminar -

Research Seminar “Labour Economics”
- no seminar -

Forschungsseminar “Quantitative Wirtschaftsforschung“
- no seminar -

PhD Seminar
- 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
Forschungsseminar “Environmental Economics and Management“
Julia Blasch, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam:
Narrowing the energy efficiency gap: The impact of educational programs, online support tools and energy-related investment literacy

Abstract:
There is evidence that many individuals make suboptimal investment decisions when the benefits and costs associated with that decision are distributed over time. One example is the decision to adopt new electrical appliances, with the benefits of choosing a more energy-efficient device materializing only in the future. This paper analyses the impact of an individual's energy-related investment literacy on the adoption of energy-efficient appliances. Moreover, the empirical analysis explores the impact of decision support tools such as educational slides on the probability that individuals identify the appliance with the lowest lifetime cost, which is ideally also the most energy-efficient appliance. To test the influence of these decision support tools, we developed an online randomized controlled trial and implemented it on two independently chosen samples of the Swiss population. One treatment offers a short education program on how to calculate the lifetime cost of an appliance -- via a set of information slides. The second intervention provides access to an online calculator that supports the investment decision-making of the individual. Results across the two samples are encouraging. We find that i) pre-treatment energy and investment literacy positively impact on the probability of identifying the appliance with the lowest lifetime cost; ii) the reinforcement of energy-related investment literacy increases the rate at which individuals identify the appliance with the lowest lifetime cost; and iii) while both interventions are effective in increasing the chances that an appliance with the lower lifetime cost is chosen, the online calculator turned out to be more effective than the educational program. Public policy implications are discussed.
Research Seminar “Microeconomics”
Subhasish M. Chowdhury, Universität Bath:
Pre-planning and its Effects on Repeated Dishonest Behavior: An Experiment

Abstract:
We investigate experimentally the effects of the opportunity to pre-plan one’s action on dynamic
(im)moral decision makings, more specifically, whether it invites more consistent or compensatory
behavior. There were two treatments where either the subjects were informed ex-ante that they would
have two sequential opportunities to tell lies for monetary gains, or they were informed about the
opportunity to tell a lie only prior to each stage. We find that when it was not possible to pre-plan,
repeated opportunities to tell a lie resulted in subjects telling a lie even for a smaller monetary gain,
i.e., they got more vulnerable to a temptation to behave dishonestly. However, when pre-planning was
possible, the proportion of subjects telling a lie was relatively high in the first stage, and then it
declined sharply in the next stage. We argue that the possibility of pre-planning invites a
compensatory, instead of consistent, action, and thus induced more dishonest responses in the first
stage and fewer in the second. Overall – considering both stages – more subjects told lies with the
opportunity to pre-plan.

The Central Influencer Theorem

Abstract:
We analyze a spatial voting model without the “one person, one vote” restriction. In equilibrium, two
groups endogenously emerge: players in one group try to implement more leftist policy, while those in
the other group more rightist one. Since the larger group suffers more severe free-riding problem, the
equilibrium policy does not converge to the center if the larger group does not have a cost advantage.
We demonstrate how the location of the center (i.e., the steady-state point) depends the convexities of
the utility and cost functions.
ACTIVITIES OF DEPARTMENT MEMBERS

Miscellaneous


The next EconNewsletter will be published on Monday January 29, 2018.

Editorial deadline: Friday, January 26, 2018.

EconNewsletter
Department of Economics
University of Hamburg
Von-Melle-Park 5, 20146 Hamburg

To un/subscribe from/to this newsletter, please send an e-mail to econ.newsletter@wiso.uni-hamburg.de