



Fachbereich VWL / Department of Economics

EconNewsletter

Editorial Contact: Michael Paetz
tel: +49 40 42838-5561; e-mail: econ.newsletter.Wiso@uni-hamburg.de

NOVEMBER 16 – NOVEMBER 20, 2020

NEWSLETTER 2020-18

SEMINAR CALENDAR

All seminars listed below will be held virtually this semester.

Labour Economics Seminar

[Jan Stuhler, Universidad Carlos III Madrid:](#)

Monday November 16

*Estimating Intergenerational and Assortative Processes
in Extended Family Data*

16:30–18:00

Zoom-Link for the online seminar: <https://uni-hamburg.zoom.us/j/4549528589?pwd=MmpkOUtvMzh2dWxTaW4yeHNvL2RsQT09>

Meeting-ID: 454 952 8589

Kenncode: labecon1

Quantitative Economics

[Samira Barzin, University of Oxford:](#)

Tuesday November 17

*Pollution and Poverty: A Spatial Analysis of Early-Life Mortality,
Satellite-Derived Airborne Pollution and Informal Housing across
Sub-Saharan Africa*

12:15–13:30

Please register via the following link:

<https://uni-hamburg.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJYvc-itqzgpHNvhBUWXWPX6bv3WwEHioDq5>

Hamburg Lectures in Law and Economics

[Prof. Katharina Pistor, Columbia Law School:](#)

Wednesday November 18

Rule by Data: The End of Markets?

18:15–19:45

Please confirm your participation by sending a short e-mail to justyn.brockmeyer@ile-hamburg.de.
After confirming your registration you will receive the access information for the seminar on Zoom.

Interdisciplinary Research Seminar of the GRK "Collective Decision Making"

[Claudia Landwehr, Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz:](#)

Thursday November 19

*Deliberation unplugged: Institutional requirements for effective citizen
participation*

17:15–18:45

Please send an email to cdm.wiso@uni-hamburg.de if you want to register for the seminar.

All other seminars are cancelled until further notice.

ABSTRACTS

Labour Economics Seminar

Jan Stuhler, Universidad Carlos III Madrid:

Estimating Intergenerational and Assortative Processes in Extended Family Data

Abstract:

We quantify intergenerational processes using a “horizontal” approach that exploits different degrees of kinship within the same generation. Our approach yields more, and more distant kinship moments than traditional methods. This allows us to fit a detailed intergenerational and assortative model that accounts for the transmission of latent advantages. Using Swedish registers, we find strong persistence in the latent determinants of status, and a striking degree of sorting – to rationalize the similarity of distant kins, assortative matching must be much stronger than previously thought. Genes explain some of the variance in educational attainment, but sorting occurs primarily in non-genetic factors

Quantitative Economics

Samira Barzin, University of Oxford:

Pollution and Poverty: A Spatial Analysis of Early-Life Mortality, Satellite-Derived Airborne Pollution and Informal Housing across Sub-Saharan Africa

Abstract:

The negative consequences and costs of air pollution on human life present a critically important problem that requires urgent and effective policies. However, while significant improvements in both understanding and policies have been made across developed countries, the absence of reliable data has limited the understanding of the effects of airborne pollution on people living in poverty across developing countries. For this work, we combine a large georeferenced socio-economic data set covering 31 countries in Sub-Saharan Africa from 2000 to 2018 with novel high resolution pollution data derived from atmospheric satellites to investigate the effects of airborne pollution on infant mortality. We find evidence for significant negative consequences of airborne pollution on children’s mortality, in particular we find that the health burden of pollution particularly affects children residing in informal housing conditions. Additionally, exploiting the spatial information of the data, we furthermore show significant spatial heterogeneity in the effects within and across locations.

Hamburg Lectures in Law and Economics

Prof. Katharina Pistor, Columbia Law School:

Rule by Data: The End of Markets?

Abstract:

This paper explores the rise of data as a means of governance. Most accounts to data treat data as a good that is produced and exchanged in markets. Data is often compared with oil or gold, implying a new rush for capturing this wealth. While it is true that data has produced enormous amounts of wealth for tech companies and their shareholders, closer scrutiny reveals that the source of this wealth is not exchange, but domination. As I argue in this paper, the value of data is not derived from their exchange, but from aggregating, processing and analyzing them to render the future predictable for the data controller and its clients. The act of buying goods or services resembles less an exchange transaction and more the final step in a series of acts aimed at controlling the outcome. The rule of algorithms will mark the end of markets as the primary site for exchanging goods and services; it is also likely to diminish the relevance of law.

Interdisciplinary Research Seminar of the GRK "Collective Decision Making"

Claudia Landwehr, Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz:

Deliberation unplugged: Institutional requirements for effective citizen participation

Abstract:

The systemic turn deliberative theorists of democracy have taken in recent years marks an important insight: that legitimacy claims are to be directed at the political system as such and not at individual actors and forums within it. Its proponents have argued that deliberative systems can and have to include deliberative and non-deliberative forms of interaction and decision-making. What matters is that these, too, are deliberatively justified and contribute to the deliberative and democratic qualities of the system as such. In this light, even high-quality elite deliberation or perfect mini-publics might not enhance the overall quality of democracy. In fact, the systemic approach can also have conservative implications if it justifies deficient institutions and decision-making procedures by arguing that they somehow contribute to the deliberative or democratic quality of the system. Our paper contends that deliberative democracy after the systemic turn remains institutionally underdetermined. In particular, it still needs to identify configurations of representative institutions that enable both effective citizen participation and inclusive deliberation. We use the cases of the United States and Germany to illustrate how institutional parameters can provide or undermine opportunities for effective participation, successful deliberation and democratic responsiveness and argue that deliberation needs to be “plugged in” both at the citizens’ side and at political elites and decision-makers’ side. As a result of our analysis, we identify combinations of institutional parameters – focussing on electoral systems and varieties of bicameralism – that have the potential to ensure that deliberation is plugged into a representative system and realizes its potential for both rational decision-making and effective participation.

ACTIVITIES OF DEPARTMENT MEMBERS

New Publications

- **Moser, J. and N. Wallmeier (2020)**, “Correlation neglect in voting decisions: An experiment”, *Economics Letters* (forthcoming), <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S016517652030416X> .
- **Castells-Quintana,D., Krause, M. and T. McDermott (2020)**, “The Urbanising Force of Global Warming: The Role of Climate Change in the Spatial Distribution of Population”, *Journal of Economic Geography* (forthcoming).

The next EconNewsletter will be published on Monday, November 23, 2020.

Editorial deadline: Friday, November 20, 2020.

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