



Fachbereich VWL / Department of Economics

EconNewsletter

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NOVEMBER 23 – NOVEMBER 27, 2020

NEWSLETTER 2020-19

SEMINAR CALENDAR

All seminars listed below will be held virtually this semester.

HCHE Research Seminar

[Prof. Dr. Lena Janys, Universität Bonn:](#)

Abortion and mental health: The role of selection

Please register here: <https://www.hche.uni-hamburg.de/en/veranstaltungen/researchseminar.html>

Monday November 23

16:30–18:00

Quantitative Economics

[Alexander Kriwoluzky, DIW Berlin:](#)

Fatal Austerity: The Economic Consequences of Heinrich Brüning

Please register via the following link:

<https://uni-hamburg.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJYvc-itqzgpHNVhBUWXWPX6bv3WwEHioDq5>

Tuesday November 24

12:15–13:30

Hamburg Lectures in Law and Economics

[Prof. Cornelia Woll, Sciences Po:](#)

Economic Lawfare: The Geopolitics of Corporate Justice

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.

Wednesday November 25

18:15–19:45

PhD Seminar

[Jan Biermann, Hamburg University:](#)

*How Communication Affects the Willingness to Collectively Share Funds
with Group Outsiders. A Lab-In-The Field Experiment in Schools*

Please register via the following link:

<https://uni-hamburg.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJAtcOqspj4sG9EmAeIaYgUKDTfzA4oNSc79>

Thursday November 26

12:15–13:15

Interdisciplinary Research Seminar of the GRK "Collective Decision Making"

(joint with Microeconomics Seminar)

[Bard Harstad, University of Oslo:](#)

*Trade and Trees: How Trade Agreements Can Motivate Conservation
Instead of Depletion*

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

Thursday November 26

17:15–18:45

All other seminars are cancelled until further notice.

ABSTRACTS

HCHE Research Seminar

Prof. Dr. Lena Janys, Universität Bonn:

Abortion and mental health: The role of selection

Abstract:

Mental health consequences of abortions have recently been the subject of public discussions surrounding abortion legislation in several countries. Yet, it is unclear whether the positive association commonly found in the literature reflects a causal effect or whether the main driver is selection. Using administrative records from both in- and outpatient data among a population of Swedish women aged 16-35 in the region of Skane, we illustrate that there are substantial differences in the rate of diagnoses of mental health disorders and risky health behavior between women who experienced an abortion and those who did not. We show that there is a positive association between abortion and different mental health outcomes (as diagnosed by a medical provider), even when including various controls and individual fixed effects. To examine possible causality, we then use quasi-experimental control group- and event study methods and find no causal effect of abortion. We interpret the remaining association from the OLS specification as a selection effect and consequently are interested in characterizing what drives observed differences in mental health status between women with and without abortions. Recognizing that even small differences in innate mental health might drive risky health behaviors leading to abortions, we hypothesize that earlier abortions indicate different future mental health profiles. Our preliminary results suggest that there are slope differences depending on the age of abortion for future mental health curves. To formalize this notion we are planning on implementing an estimator using group-fixed effects first proposed by Bonhomme and Manresa (2015).

Hamburg Lectures in Law and Economics

Prof. Cornelia Woll, Sciences Po:

Economic Lawfare: The Geopolitics of Corporate Justice

Abstract:

Large corporations are increasingly on trial. Over the last decade, many of the world's biggest companies have been embroiled in legal disputes over corruption charges, fraud, environmental damage, taxation issues or sanction violations, ending in convictions or settlements of record-breaking fines, well above the billion-dollar mark. For critics of globalization, this turn towards corporate accountability is a welcome sea-change showing that multinational companies are no longer above the law, simply because they are too big, too mobile and too important for economic growth. But the new world of corporate justice has a decidedly geopolitical dimension as well that helps to explain this new aggressive pursuit of corporate prosecutions. It requires market power to be able to impose legal norms beyond national boundaries, and the United States in particular has skillfully expanded its effective jurisdiction beyond its territory. I analyze the geopolitical tensions that result from the extraterritorial extension of American corporate criminal law and highlight both the politics of more stringent global corporate justice and the ways in which these reshape national legal approaches to corporate criminal law and business-government relations more generally.

PhD Seminar

Jan Biermann, Hamburg University:

How Communication Affects the Willingness to Collectively Share Funds with Group Outsiders. A Lab-In-The Field Experiment in Schools

Abstract:

Communication plays a crucial role in shaping collective decisions. This paper examines how communication influences willingness to collectively share funds with refugees as well as trust among decision-makers. To investigate these topics, we examine data from a lab-in-the-field experiment with school minors from 13 schools. Importantly, we analyze textual data, which results from a free-form chat in our experiment. We find a positive impact of communication on willingness to collectively share funds and no effect on trust. We discuss possible explanations for our findings such as social pressure and the type of language that participants use in the chat.

**Interdisciplinary Research Seminar of the GRK "Collective Decision Making"
(joint with Microeconomics Seminar)**

Bard Harstad, University of Oslo:

Trade and Trees: How Trade Agreements Can Motivate Conservation Instead of Depletion

Abstract:

Free trade can often lead to resource depletion, such as deforestation in the tropics. This paper first presents a dynamic model whereby the South (S) depletes to export the extracted units (timber) or the produce (beef) from land available after depletion. Because of the damages, the North benefits from trade liberalization only if the remaining stock is, in any case, diminished. For that reason, S speeds up exploitation. The negative results are reversed if the parties can negotiate a contingent trade agreement, whereby the allocation of gains from trade, and thus the location on the Pareto frontier, is sensitive to the size of the remaining stock. In equilibrium, S conserves to maintain its favorable terms of trade, S conserves more than in autarky, and more when the gains from trade are large. The parties cannot commit to future policies, but they obtain the same outcome as if they could.

ACTIVITIES OF DEPARTMENT MEMBERS

New Publications

- **Margaryan, S. (2020)**, "Low Emission Zones and Population Health", *Journal of Health Economics* (forthcoming).

The next EconNewsletter will be published on Monday, November 30, 2020.

Editorial deadline: Friday, November 27, 2020.

<p>EconNewsletter</p>

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