



Fachbereich VWL / Department of Economics

# EconNewsletter

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JANUARY 27 – JANUARY 31, 2020

NEWSLETTER 2020-4

## SEMINAR CALENDAR

### Research Seminar “Labour Economics”

Chiara D. Pronzato, University of Turin:  
*The Impact of a Conditional Cash Transfer Program on Households' Well-Being*

Monday January 27  
16:30-18:00  
Esplanade 36, R. 4011/13

### Environmental and Development Economics

Kai Barron, WZB:  
*Nudging Cooperation*

Wednesday January 29  
12:15–13:45  
WiWi 0079 (VMP 5)

### Hamburg Lectures on Law & Economics

Prof. Simon Evenett, University of St. Gallen:  
*A Notion of Protectionism fit for Purpose in the 21st Century*

Wednesday January 29  
18:15–19:45  
R. 110, Johnsallee 35

### PhD Seminar

Julia Samwer, University of Hamburg:  
*How Labor Market Institutions Affect Technological Choices*

Thursday January 30  
12:15–13:15  
WiWi 2095/2197 (VMP 5)

### Research Seminar “Microeconomics”

Urs Schweizer, University of Bonn:  
*Damages for Infringements of Competition Law*

Thursday January 30  
17:15–18:45  
Raum S 28 (VMP 9)

### HCHE Research Seminar

- no seminar -

### Forschungsseminar “Quantitative Wirtschaftsforschung“

- 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”**

Chiara D. Pronzato, University of Turin:

*The Impact of a Conditional Cash Transfer Program on Households' Well-Being*

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*Abstract:*

We evaluate the impact of a conditional cash transfer (CCT) program that we designed on family well-being among low-income families with young children. Although most CCTs have been implemented in low-income countries, our research is in the context of a high-income country, Italy, where the recent economic crises have worsened the conditions of families with children, especially among immigrants. Our objective is to evaluate the introduction of conditionality (attendance of courses) into a pre-existing unconditional cash transfer program. Using a randomized controlled trial, we find that CCT families search more actively for work, and they work more hours and more regularly than the cash transfer and control groups. CCT families also are able to save more money and eat healthier foods. The CCT intervention appears to be more effective than cash transfer alone in changing households' behavior in several dimensions of well-being. Our findings add to the accumulating evidence on the impact of conditional cash transfers versus unconditional ones and to the literature concerning multidimensional incentive programs.

### **Environmental and Development Economics**

Kai Barron, WZB:

*Nudging Cooperation*

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*Abstract:*

This paper experimentally studies two simple interventions aimed at increasing public goods provision in settings in which accurate feedback about contributions is not available. The first intervention aims to exploit lying aversion by requiring subjects to send a non-verifiable ex post announcement about their contribution. The second intervention aims to nudge participants to higher contribution levels by simply labeling contributions of 16 or above as being ‘good’. We find that the ex post announcement mechanism does not have a significant effect on the cooperation rate. However, the nudge leads to a striking increase in the cooperation rate. We provide suggestive evidence that the nudge we use provides subjects with a focal point, helping conditional cooperators to coordinate their contributions. Moreover, despite the lack of monetary incentives to lie, we find that a significant minority of subjects inflate their announcements.

### **Hamburg Lectures on Law & Economics**

Prof. Simon Evenett, University of St. Gallen:

*A Notion of Protectionism fit for Purpose in the 21st Century*

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*Abstract:*

In this presentation Simon Evenett will critically evaluate existing notions of protectionism in light of resort to discrimination by governments since the onset of the global financial crisis. An alternative definition based on relative treatment will be proposed and its implementation in monitoring policy choice discussed.

### **PhD Seminar**

Julia Samwer, University of Hamburg:

*How Labor Market Institutions Affect Technological Choices*

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*Abstract:*

Does the adaption of technological change depend on labor market institutions? The returns to introducing new technology differ across countries since they depend on skill-levels but also incentives provided by labor market institutions. Wage compression through unions and minimum wage laws therefore indirectly induce technological change, as the employer can claim the full difference in productivity levels. The magnitude of the technological advancement also defines adoption rates. Small technical changes are adopted in any institutional environment whereas larger technical progress is more likely to be integrated in rigid institutional settings. Using data on industrial robots and information and communication technology an empirical cross-country analysis explores the impact of institutional labor market patterns on technological choices and hence their influence on wage patterns and unemployment.

### **Research Seminar “Microeconomics”**

Urs Schweizer, University of Bonn:

*Damages for Infringements of Competition Law*

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*Abstract:*

This paper examines the EU-Directive on certain rules governing actions for damages for infringements of competition law from an economic perspective. Actions free of infringements serve as benchmark. Since competition law tolerates less than perfect competition, this benchmark is not first-best and, as a consequence, damages rules in line with the Directive should not be expected to provide first-best incentives. Instead, the paper examines damages rules that are at least welfare-preserving relative to this inefficient benchmark. Under full information, welfare-preserving damages rules are shown to exist that would be in line with the Directive. Welfare-preserving rules may even exist at less than full information. In this case, however, some of the Directive’s rules would have to be loosened for enabling courts to implement such rules.

## ACTIVITIES OF DEPARTMENT MEMBERS

### Miscellaneous

- Wir freuen uns, Herrn **Michael Bauer** begrüßen zu dürfen, der am 01.02.2020 eine von der DFG geförderte Heisenberg-Proffessur für Volkswirtschaftslehre, insb. Finanzmarktökonomie, antreten wird. Weitere Informationen zu Herrn Bauer finden Sie auf seiner Website: <https://www.michaeldbauer.com/>

*The next EconNewsletter will be published on Monday, April 5, 2020.*

*Editorial deadline: Friday, April 3, 2020.*

### **EconNewsletter**

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