



Fachbereich VWL / Department of Economics

EconNewsletter

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MAY 3 – MAY 7, 2021

NEWSLETTER 2021-11

SEMINAR CALENDAR

All seminars listed below will be held virtually this semester.

HCHE Research Seminar

[Joachim Winter, LMU München:](#)

Inequality in mortality in Germany

Please register via the following link:

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

Monday May 3

16:30–18:00

Quantitative Economics

[Christian Proano, University of Bamberg:](#)

Are Some People More Equal than Others?

Experimental Evidence on Group Identity and Income Inequality

Please register via the following link:

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

Tuesday May 4

12:15–13:30

Hamburg Lectures in Law and Economics

[Robbert Maseland, University of Groningen:](#)

Contingent Determinants

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 May 5

18:15–19:45

PhD Seminar

[Emile du Plessis, Hamburg University:](#)

Reading Between the Lines: Quantitative Text Analysis of Banking Crises

Please register via the following link:

<https://uni-hamburg.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJEIc2ppzMpEtSntdV3ofF2S-qKBw7vvhEI>

Thursday May 6

12:15–13:15

Microeconomics Seminar

[Alessandro Lizzeri, Princeton:](#)

Information Acquisition

Zoom-Link:

<https://uni-hamburg.zoom.us/j/97265167811?pwd=WW05UmowdzZlVlQVCswcm45Y0NhZz09>

Thursday May 6

17:15–18:45

Meeting-ID: 972 6516 7811

Kenncode: J5MWA!D%

ABSTRACTS

Quantitative Economics

Christian Proano, University of Bamberg:

Are some people more equal than others? Experimental evidence on group identity and income inequality

Abstract:

We investigate the effects of group identity and income inequality on social preferences and polarization by means of a laboratory experiment. We split our subjects into two populations: in-group (representing "natives") and out-group ("migrants"). In-group subjects repeatedly vote whether an unemployment insurance should cover all, some, or no members of their group. By means of a two-by-two design we disentangle the effect of group identity from those of income inequality. Among others, our experiment yields the following findings: (1) subjects tend to vote for less inclusive insurance schemes when they sample a higher chance of employment; however, (2) in-group subjects with an ex ante more beneficial distribution of employment chances - relative to the out-group - are less selfish and vote for more inclusive insurance schemes; (3) ex ante more beneficial relative employment chances of in-group subjects also leads to less polarization; and (4) revelation and priming of group identity does not lead to discrimination against out-group "migrants" but, on the contrary, can lead to more compassionate and inclusive attitudes.

Hamburg Lectures in Law and Economics

Robbert Maseland, University of Groningen:

Contingent Determinants

Abstract:

We study the channels through which 'deep' historical or geographical determinants of development are connected to present outcomes. We distinguish three classes of theoretical processes that explain this connection—persistence, path-dependence due to multiple equilibria, and transitions between growth regimes—and explore the implications of each for the evolution of deep determinants' impacts. Replicating the analyses of 43 determinants identified in the literature at different points in time, we find that the evolutionary pattern of the impact of determinants is mostly consistent with a hybrid theory of multiple equilibria and transitions between growth regimes. Specifically, we find that the effects of determinants are either constant nor slowly waning over time, but appear to be increasing or peaking around the turn of the century. Regardless of the origins of these patterns, it appears that the substantive relevance of deep determinants is contingent on the period of analysis.

PhD Seminar

Emile du Plessis, Hamburg University:

Reading Between the Lines: Quantitative Text Analysis of Banking Crises

Abstract:

This paper develops five indicators based on a large corpus of economic news articles to forecast financial crises. The methodological approaches feature the identification of key topics within a large volume of texts, as well as the measurement of similarity between texts. A Banking Crisis Lexicon Index and Sentiment Index are developed through analysing a vast amount of economic articles to detect the evolution of banking sector discourse. Findings from Granger causality highlight leading indicators status and receiver operating characteristics suggest robust forecasting performance strength of the Banking Crisis Lexicon Index, globally and for developed economies up to two years preceding a crisis. While the aggregated Sentiment Index constitutes a coincidental indicator, for developed economies it is a short-term leading indicator. A combined lexicon and sentiment index exhibit solid forecasting performance. Statistical models Wordscores and Wordfish are introduced to study banking crises and underscore crisis classification strength. A hand-coding approach is used to verify the veracity of the indices and provides credence to the vital contribution of published deliberations in understanding and detecting banking sector frailties. In reading between the lines, this paper contributes to the literature on quantitative text analyses in constructing text-based latent banking crisis indicators.

Microeconomics Seminar

Alessandro Lizzeri, Princeton:

Information Acquisition

Abstract:

Many committees—juries, political task forces, etc.—spend time gathering costly information before reaching a decision. We report results from lab experiments focused on such information collection processes. We consider decisions governed by individuals and groups and compare how voting rules affect outcomes. We also contrast static information collection, as in classical hypothesis testing, with dynamic collection, as in sequential hypothesis testing. Generally, outcomes approximate the theoretical benchmark and sequential information collection is welfare enhancing relative to static collection. Nonetheless, several important departures emerge. Static information collection is excessive, and sequential information collection is non-stationary, producing declining decision accuracies over time. Furthermore, groups using majority rule yield especially hasty and inaccurate decisions.

The next EconNewsletter will be published on Monday, May 10, 2021.

*Editorial deadline: **Friday, May 7, 2021.***

EconNewsletter

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