



Fachbereich VWL / Department of Economics

EconNewsletter

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OCTOBER 25 – OCTOBER 29, 2021

NEWSLETTER 2021-23

SEMINAR CALENDAR

HCHE Research Seminar

[Frank Jacobi, Psychologische Hochschule Berlin:](#)

Die Zunahme psychischer Diagnosen im Versorgungsgeschehen: Wie passen Sozialversicherungsdaten und Prävalenzen aus epidemiologischen Feldstudien zusammen?

Monday October 25
16:30-18:00
Esplanade 36, R. 4011/13

Quantitative Economics

[Matthias Meier, University of Mannheim:](#)

Corporate Debt Maturity Matters For Monetary Policy

Tuesday October 26
12:15–13:30
R. 0022 (VMP 5)

This seminar will be held in a hybrid format. For participation via Zoom please register via the following link:

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

Hamburg Lectures in Law and Economics

[Matthieu Chemin, McGill University:](#)

Know Your Rights! A Field Experiment on Legal Knowledge, Property Rights and Investment in Kenya

Wednesday October 27
18:15–19:45

This lecture will be held in a digital format. For participation via Zoom please register via the following link: <https://forms.office.com/r/zwMWVVRAbq>.

Interdisciplinary Research Seminar

[Ingrid Robeyns, Utrecht University:](#)

Why Limitarianism?

Thursday October 28
17:15–18:45
R. S28 (VMP9)

This lecture will be held in a hybrid format. For participation via Zoom please register via the following link:

<https://www.wiso.uni-hamburg.de/en/forschung/verbundprojekte/rtg-collective-decision-making/events/register-for-irs-talk.html>

ABSTRACTS

Quantitative Economics

Matthias Meier, University of Mannheim:

Corporate Debt Maturity Matters For Monetary Policy

Abstract:

We provide novel empirical evidence that firms' investment is more responsive to surprise changes in monetary policy when a higher fraction of their debt is due. In a heterogeneous firm New Keynesian model with financial frictions and endogenous debt maturity, two channels explain this finding: (1.) Firms with more maturing debt roll over more debt and are therefore more exposed to fluctuations in the real interest rate (roll-over risk). (2.) These firms have higher default risk and therefore react more strongly to fluctuations in the real burden of outstanding nominal debt (debt overhang). The aggregate effectiveness of monetary policy therefore depends on the joint distribution of debt maturity and default risk across firms.

Hamburg Lectures in Law and Economics

Mathieu Chemin, McGill University:

Know Your Rights! A Field Experiment on Legal Knowledge, Property Rights and Investment in Kenya

Abstract:

Knowledge of the legal institutions matters for them to have an effect. In this paper, we design a legal training program informed by 5 years of fieldwork for another project (Aberra and Chemin, 2020), in which a team of Kenyan lawyers defended the land rights of small-scale farmers in court. During this fieldwork, the Kenyan lawyers discovered that the main reason for disputes was that people had not properly implemented the processes of succession or buying / selling land, and therefore never got an official title for their land. The goal of the training program is to anticipate these issues in court by providing a better explanation of these two processes. We find that this increases legal knowledge, the security of property rights and investment. The legal program also reduces the number of cases filed in courts, thereby indirectly benefiting all other court users through faster courts.

Our proposal to challenge mainstream comparative law's coloniality lies in the idea of decolonial comparative law: a re-articulation of comparative law on the basis of decolonial theory. This is not a manifesto for such a discipline – not only because it would be too early to formulate one, but also because such an imposition would run against the impulses of decolonial comparative law. At this stage, our (preliminary) ideas are intended to serve as a basis for discussions and collaborative engagement. In this brief concept paper, we provide an overview of the mainstream in the discipline of comparative law. We also delineate what we mean by

decolonial comparative law, why decolonial comparative law is necessary, and how to do decolonial comparative law.

Interdisciplinary Research Seminar

Ingrid Robeyns, Utrecht University:

Why Limitarianism?

Abstract:

In this talk, I will discuss ‘limitarianism’, which is the view that there should be upper limits to how much we can have of scarce goods, including income and wealth. Limitarianism is a view for the world as it is and for nearby possible worlds; it is unlikely that it holds for all possible approaches to distributive ethics. I will briefly discuss some reasons that have been advanced for limitarianism, but then focus on the question what kind of view this is. I will also respond to a recent critique that given that we have the principles of sufficientarianism and egalitarianism, we don’t need limitarianism. The talk concludes with outlining some elements of a future research agenda on limitarianism.

The next EconNewsletter will be published on Monday, November 1, 2021.

Editorial deadline: Friday, October 29, 2021.

EconNewsletter

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