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FAKULTÄT  
FÜR WIRTSCHAFTS- UND  
SOZIALWISSENSCHAFTEN

Fachbereich VWL / Department of Economics

# EconNewsletter

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**FEBRUARY 8 – FEBRUARY 12, 2021**

**NEWSLETTER 2021-6**

## SEMINAR CALENDAR

All seminars listed below will be held virtually this semester.

### **Interdisciplinary Research Seminar**

[Lisa Herzog, University of Groningen:](#)

*What's wrong with the "marketplace of ideas"?*

Please register here:

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

Thursday February 11

17:15–18:45

## ABSTRACTS

### **Interdisciplinary Research Seminar**

Lisa Herzog, University of Groningen:

*What's wrong with the "marketplace of ideas"?*

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*Abstract:*

Metaphors from the past can have a long-lasting influence on current political thought and political practice. In this talk, I discuss the example of the "marketplace of ideas", which has been very influential in US jurisprudences and continues to be evoked in current contexts, e.g., in debates about the regulation of the internet. But as a metaphor, it does not quite work – exchanges of ideas are different from exchanges of goods and services. And in fact, when Milton wrote that we should let "truth and falsehood grapple," he had in mind more a battle than a marketplace. But a "battle of ideas" requires individuals, as the bearers of ideas, to behave in certain ways, making sports competitions a more appropriate metaphor. Instead of being captivated by any of these metaphors, we need to acknowledge that the fields in which ideas are exchanged differ, with regard to individuals' motivation, the appropriateness of regulation, and the temporal dynamics. The debate about speech and its regulation needs to focus on clarifying the delineations between these fields, and the rules and norms that are appropriate within and between them.

*The next EconNewsletter will be published on Monday, February 15, 2021.*

*Editorial deadline: Friday, February 12, 2021.*

### **EconNewsletter**

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