



Fachbereich VWL / Department of Economics

EconNewsletter

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NOVEMBER 7 – NOVEMBER 11, 2022

NEWSLETTER 2022-21

SEMINAR CALENDAR

HCHE Research Seminar

[Ulrike Ravens-Sieberer, Universitätsklinikum Hamburg-Eppendorf:](#)
*Child and adolescent mental health during the Covid-19 Pandemic:
Results from the Copsy-Study*

Monday November 7
16:30-18:00
Esplanade 36, R. 4011/13

Quantitative Economics

[Leopold Zessner-Spitzenberg, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin:](#)
Fear of Hiking? Monetary Policy and Sovereign Risk

Tuesday November 8
R. 0079 (VMP 5)

This seminar will also be live streamed. 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

[Libor Dušek, Charles University:](#)
Law or Policy? The Role of Authority in Criminal Sentencing

Wednesday November 9
18:15–19:45

This seminar is held in a digital format. To register for **Online participation** via Zoom please click the following link and fill in the necessary information: <https://ile-hamburg.us5.list-manage.com/track/click?u=a3a598540658d2c2aadfae5b6&id=34e4237333&e=3446e273d6> or send an email to yasmin.seyrafian@ile-hamburg.de. You will then receive an Email with the access link prior to the lecture.

Microeconomics Seminar & Interdisciplinary Research Seminar

[Thomas Schramme, University of Liverpool:](#)
*Health Capital: Introducing an Evaluative Framework to Assess Social
Policies*

Thursday November 10
17:15–18:45
R. 0079 (VMP 5)

This seminar will also be live streamed. 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

Leopold Zessner-Spitzenberg, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin:

Fear of Hiking? Monetary Policy and Sovereign Risk

Abstract:

What are the implications of a monetary tightening in a currency union for sovereign default risk in a union member? We study this question in a quantitative sovereign default model and obtain two results. First, a monetary tightening reduces default risk in the union member when its debt/GDP ratio is below a critical threshold, driven by increased incentives to reduce the level of debt. Second, the monetary tightening increases default risk when debt/GDP is above the critical threshold. We quantify this “Fear of Hiking” zone and study its policy implications by applying our model to the euro area.

Hamburg Lectures in Law and Economics

Libor Dušek, Charles University:

Law or Policy? The Role of Authority in Criminal Sentencing

Abstract:

To what extent can non-binding recommendations by penal authorities shape sentencing policy within the limits of existing legislation? We study the probability of imposing a fine in criminal cases in the Czech Republic, where legislation allows their broad use yet the actual use had been historically low. In 2016 and 2017, the President of the Supreme Court and the Supreme Prosecutor ran a campaign aimed at increasing the use of fines, which consisted of seminars for judges and prosecutors and of policy meetings of chief district prosecutors. Using a full universe of criminal cases over a 5-years period, we estimate the effects of these soft interventions on the probability to impose a fine and investigate for spillover and substitution effects.

We find that the meetings of the chief prosecutors increased the probability of imposing a fine by 7 percentage points. Participation by a judge at a seminar increased the probability to impose a fine by that judge by 6 percentage points. The effect of the seminars is strongest if both the prosecutor and the judge participated. The authority of penal elites, albeit non-binding, can thus be highly effective in changing the sentencing policy in the absence of any legislative changes.

Microeconomics Seminar & Interdisciplinary Research Seminar

Thomas Schramme, University of Liverpool:

Health Capital: Introducing an Evaluative Framework to Assess Social Policies

Abstract:

This paper outlines a novel framing on the value and normative significance of health, by considering these concepts through the idea of 'health capital'. Health capital is a set of health-related assets of individuals that enable them to pursue their interests and to compete with others for scarce goods. The paper is a precursor to the overarching research question as to what is due to people as a matter of social justice to prevent vicious circles of health capital depletion. The specific contribution of this paper is to establish the notion of health capital beyond a metaphorical idea, and to initially explore the repercussions of this idea for theories of health justice.

ACTIVITIES OF DEPARTMENT MEMBERS

New Publications

- **Funke, M., Li, X. and D. Zhong (2023)**, “Household Indebtedness, Financial Frictions and the Transmission of Monetary Policy to Consumption: Evidence from China”, *Emerging Markets Review* (forthcoming).

The next EconNewsletter will be published on Monday, November 14, 2022.

Editorial deadline: Friday, November 11, 2022.

EconNewsletter

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