



Fachbereich VWL / Department of Economics

# EconNewsletter

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JANUARY 17 – JANUARY 21, 2022

NEWSLETTER 2022-3

## SEMINAR CALENDAR

### Quantitative Economics

[Christoph Trebesch, Kiel Institute for the World Economy:](#)

Tuesday January 18

*Populist Leaders and the Economy*

12:15–13:30

This lecture will be held in a digital 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

[Benjamin Enke, Harvard University:](#)

Wednesday January 19

*Moral Universalism and the Structure of Ideology*

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/WjARmip6rt>

### Interdisciplinary Research Seminar

[Johanna Mollerstrom, George Mason University:](#)

Thursday January 20

*Competitiveness and Employability*

17:15–18:45

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

<https://uni-hamburg.zoom.us/j/97265167811?pwd=WW05UmowdzZlVlQVCswcm45Y0Nhdz09>

Meeting-ID: 972 6516 7811

Kenncode: J5MWA!D%

## ABSTRACTS

### **Quantitative Economics**

Christoph Trebesch, Kiel Institute for the World Economy:

*Populist Leaders and the Economy*

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*Abstract:*

Populism at the country level is at an all-time high, with more than 25% of nations currently governed by populists. How do economies perform under populist leaders? We build a new cross-country database identifying 50 populist presidents and prime ministers 1900-2018. We find that the economic cost of populism is high. After 15 years, GDP per capita is more than 10% lower compared to a plausible non-populist counterfactual. Rising economic nationalism and protectionism, unsustainable macroeconomic policies, and institutional decay under populist rule do lasting damage to the economy.

### **Hamburg Lectures in Law and Economics**

Benjamin Enke, Harvard University:

*Moral Universalism and the Structure of Ideology*

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*Abstract:*

Throughout the Western world, people's policy views are correlated across domains in a strikingly similar fashion. This paper proposes that what partly explains the structure of ideology is moral universalism: the extent to which people exhibit the same level of altruism and trust towards strangers as towards in-group members. In new large-scale multinational surveys with 15,000 respondents, we measure universalism in both altruism and trust. In the data, heterogeneity in universalism descriptively explains why the left and right both simultaneously support and oppose different types of government spending. Moreover, the left-right divide on topics such as redistribution or foreign aid strongly depends on whether people evaluate more or less universalist implementations of these policies. Large-scale donation data provide complementary field evidence for the political left's universalism.

**Interdisciplinary Research Seminar**

Johanna Mollerstrom, George Mason University:

*Competitiveness and Employability*

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*Abstract:*

We investigate the impact on perceived and actual employability when job candidates signal different personal tastes for competitions. Using three experiments, with over 2000 participants in total, we show that candidates who are not willing to compete at all risk being perceived as less productive, while those who signal a willingness to compete with others may be perceived as less socially skilled. Displaying a willingness to self-compete, i.e. to challenge oneself to improve over time, does, however, increase the likelihood of being perceived as both productive and socially skilled. These findings hold for both female and male candidates.

*The next EconNewsletter will be published on Monday, January 24, 2022.*

*Editorial deadline: Friday, January 21, 2022.*

**EconNewsletter**

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