



Fachbereich VWL / Department of Economics

EconNewsletter

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OCTOBER 30 – NOVEMBER 3, 2023

NEWSLETTER 2023-21

SEMINAR CALENDAR

Hamburg Lectures in Law and Economics

[Dr. Ahmed Skali, University of Groningen:](#)

The National Emergency Declaration and Interest in the QAnon Conspiracy Theory

Wednesday November 1

18:15–19:45

R. 1083a (VMP 5)

This seminar is held in a hybrid 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=b311cd1227&e=3446e273d6> or send an email to larapazer@gmail.com. You will then receive an Email with the access link prior to the lecture.

PhD Seminar

[Clara Coelho, Hamburg University:](#)

Regional Effects of Monetary Policy in Brazil

Thursday November 2

12:15–13:00

R. 0079 (VMP 5)

ABSTRACTS

Hamburg Lectures in Law and Economics

[Dr. Ahmed Skali, University of Groningen:](#)

The National Emergency Declaration and Interest in the QAnon Conspiracy Theory

Abstract:

The prominent QAnon conspiracy theory views the pandemic as a deliberate attempt to exercise control over the population. We study whether the declaration of a U.S. national emergency in March 2020 is met with conspiratorial backlash; if so, why, and whether there are public health consequences. We find a steep rise in interest in QAnon across the United States, as measured by Google searches, immediately after the national emergency declaration. The main mechanism appears to be that “seeing is believing”: the rise in interest in QAnon is larger in areas with fewer cases of the virus, suggesting people are more prone to doubting the pandemic unless they can “see” large numbers of sick people. Our results are not attributable to increased internet use, economic motives, political distrust, polarization, or to systematic

reactions to severe adverse events. Interest in conspiracy theories can account for approximately 146,000 cases of and 7,500 deaths from the virus in the United States between March and May 2020, with differences in mobility behaviour accounting for all QAnon-related cases and deaths.

PhD Seminar

Clara Coelho, Hamburg University:

Regional Effects of Monetary Policy in Brazil

Abstract:

This paper investigates the effects of monetary policy shocks on the Brazilian economy, with a particular focus on potential regional variations in the responses. Utilizing a detailed regional definition within Brazil, the study employs a widely accepted method for measuring exogenous monetary policy shocks. The findings suggest that monetary policy in Brazil is less detrimental for regional inequality than previously believed, with richer regions exhibiting stronger responses than poorer regions. The study also indicates a relatively benign impact in terms of hysteresis, as both rich and poor municipalities recover from the shocks within five years, with minimal effects on employment and labor productivity. The source of the effect can not be restricted to a single component but rather points out at a combined effect of sectorial composition and employment.

The next EconNewsletter will be published on Monday, November 6, 2023.

*Editorial deadline: **Friday, November 3, 2023.***

EconNewsletter

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