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FÜR WIRTSCHAFTS- UND
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Fachbereich VWL / Department of Economics

EconNewsletter

Editorial Contact: Michael Paetz
tel: +49 40 42838-5561; e-mail: econ.newsletter.Wiso@uni-hamburg.de

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OCTOBER 13 – OCTOBER 17, 2025 — NEWSLETTER 2025-19

SEMINAR CALENDAR

Hamburg Lectures in Law and Economics

Roger Congleton, West Virginia University:
The Nature and Effects of Rights, a Constitutional Political Economy Perspective

Wednesday October 15
18:15–19:45
R. 223 (ILE)
Alsterterrasse 1

This seminar is held in a hybrid format. To register for online participation via Zoom, please send an E-Mail by 11:30 AM at the latest on the day of the lecture to lectures-ile@uni-hamburg.de.

Labour and Applied Economics

Ciprian Domnisoru, Aalto University:
The role of firms in shaping the work, study, and graduation choices of student employees

Thursday October 16
14:30–16:00
R. 2.16 (Welckerstraße 8)

Microeconomics

Bhaskar Dutta, University of Warwick:
Peer Selection in a Network: A Mechanism Design Approach

Thursday October 16
17:15–18:45
R. 0079 (VMP 5)

ABSTRACTS

Hamburg Lectures in Law and Economics
Roger Congleton, West Virginia University:
The Nature and Effects of Rights, a Constitutional Political Economy Perspective

Abstract:
Constitutional political economy theory implies that systems of rights can emerge from different processes, but the rights that emerge generally tend to be unequal and to change through time. In some cases, rights may become more equal and universal, but not often. If rights are consequential, then understanding their origins and the political, economic, and cultural processes that generate and support them is also important. This paper undertakes to do so and also provides some evidence that democratic politics and open markets tend to support relatively equal and universal rights. Rights are among the most important of the rules that determine individual and organizational opportunities and thereby have both economic and political consequences.

Labour and Applied Economics
Ciprian Domnisoru, Aalto University:
The role of firms in shaping the work, study, and graduation choices of student employees

Abstract:
How do firms affect the academic outcomes of their student employees? As in many European countries, a majority of Finnish students work during the school-year, often in full time positions. Yet, policies and financial incentives targeting on-time graduation are almost exclusively geared towards individuals and universities, overlooking the role of employers. Using university grade records linked to employer-employee data for student employees, this paper estimates firm-specific fixed effects on student employee wages, credits, and grades. The findings reveal systematic differences in the magnitude of firm effects on wages and grades across industries, employer size, ownership type and other firm characteristics. These results suggest that firms play a meaningful role in shaping student outcomes and should be considered in the policy mix supporting student success.

Microeconomics
Bhaskar Dutta, University of Warwick:
Peer Selection in a Network: A Mechanism Design Approach

Abstract:
A planner wants to select one agent out of n agents on the basis of a binary characteristic that is commonly known to all agents but is not observed by the planner. Any pair of agents can either be friends or enemies or impartials of each other. An individual's most preferred outcome is that she be selected. If she is not selected, then she would prefer that a friend be selected, and if neither she herself or a friend is selected, then she would prefer that an impartial agent be selected. Finally, her least preferred outcome is that an enemy be selected. The planner wants to design a dominant strategy incentive compatible mechanism in order to be able choose a desirable agent. We derive sufficient conditions for existence of efficient and DSIC mechanisms when the planner knows the bilateral relationships between agents. We also show that if the planner does not know the network these relationships, then there is no efficient and DSIC mechanism and we compare the relative efficiency of two "second-best" DSIC mechanisms. Finally, we obtain sharp characterization results when the network of friends and enemies satisfies structural balance.

ACTIVITIES OF DEPARTMENT MEMBERS

New Publications

- **Creutzburg, C., Doerr, L. & W. Maennig (2025),** "Exponential Effects of Public Purchasing Subsidies: A Full-Sample Analysis of Electric Vehicle Adoption in Germany," *Transportation Research Part A: Policy and Practice (accepted).*
- **Doerr, L. M. & W. Maennig (2025),** " Globalization in the Food Sector and Poverty," *European Journal of Development Research,* https://doi.org/10.1057/s41287-025-00711-x.

The next EconNewsletter will be published **on Monday, October 20, 2025.**

Editorial deadline: **Friday, October 17, 2025.**

EconNewsletter
Department of Economics
University of Hamburg
Von-Melle-Park 5, 20146 Hamburg

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