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Fachbereich VWL / Department of Economics

EconNewsletter

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NOVEMBER 3 – NOVEMBER 7, 2025 — **NEWSLETTER 2025-22**

SEMINAR CALENDAR

HCHE Research Seminar	
Stefan Sliwa Ruiz, Bernhard-Nocht-Institut:	Monday November 3
What Happens to Population Health When the Doctors Leave? Evidence from the Exit of Cuban Doctors in Brazil	16:00-17:15 Esplanade 36, R. 4011/13
Quantitative Economics	
Alexander Kriwolutzky, DIW:	Tuesday November 4
Beyond Multipliers: Distributional Income Effects of Government Spending in the Euro Area	12:15–13:30 R. 0079 (VMP 5)
Hamburg Lectures in Law and Economics	
Axel Kämmerer, Bucerius Law School:	Wednesday November 5
The Nature and Effects of Rights, a Constitutional Political Economy Perspective	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	
Jannis Kück, Heinrich-Heine-Universität Düsseldorf:	Thursday November 6
Learning control variables and instruments for causal analysis in observational data	14:30–16:00 R. 1068 (VMP 5)

ABSTRACTS

HCHE Research Seminar
Stefan Sliwa Ruiz, Bernhard-Nocht-Institut:
What Happens to Population Health When the Doctors Leave? Evidence from the Exit of Cuban Doctors in Brazil

Abstract:
Dr. Stefan Sliwa Ruiz vom Bernhard-Nocht-Institut für Tropenmedizin in Hamburg untersucht in einer Studie die Folgen eines großflächigen Abgangs migrantischer Ärzte in Brasilien auf die Bevölkerungsgesundheit. Es gab dauerhafte Einschränkungen bei der Versorgung chronischer Krankheiten, während die Sofortversorgung schnell wiederhergestellt war. Trotzdem blieben die Gesundheitsergebnisse stabil, da Anpassungen auf Angebots- und Nachfrageseite negative Auswirkungen minderten.

Die Veranstaltung findet auf Englisch statt.

Quantitative Economics
Alexander Kriwolutzky, DIW:
Beyond Multipliers: Distributional Income Effects of Government Spending in the Euro Area

Abstract:
What are the distributional income effects of government spending in the euro area? Using harmonized micro-level data from the EU-SILC, we analyze how fiscal policy impacts income growth across the income distribution, as well as across gender and occupational groups. Our results show, first, that expansionary government spending benefits lower-income households. Second, we find that these effects are driven by increases in employee income, with women experiencing the largest gains. Third, the underlying mechanisms differ by type of fiscal intervention: consumption shocks raise employee income in public-sector occupations at the intensive margin, whereas investment shocks primarily affect women in private-sector jobs, also operating through increased hours worked (extensive margin). Fourth, we show that the positive effects for women are most pronounced in countries with lower female employment rates or higher gender wage gaps.

Hamburg Lectures in Law and Economics
Axel Kämmerer, Bucerius Law School:
Central Bank Independence in Times of Neomercantilism

Abstract:
While strategic attacks on central banks are on the increase, the (unprecedented) targeting of individual central bankers – as in the Lisa Cook case – has a new dimension. Driven by ideologies such as neomercantilism and populism, whose proponents question the independence of central banks, the attacks (which are not confined to the USA) could trigger the end of this institutional paradigm. The headwind its critics encounter from constitutional law is not so strong as one might expect, as from a constitutional perspective, central banks have been increasingly drifting away from democratic legitimacy or, as populists would put it, the will of the people. In judgments such as the one of the German Federal Constitutional Court on PSPP, one may find at least some echoes of the populist narrative. – Against this constitutional setting that is not unambiguous, the presentation will focus on individual central bankers – when they are targeted by the executive without a justification, but also when they can be blamed for actual misconduct. It will be shown that while in both situations the trustworthiness and the independence of the central bank are in peril, the law in force is ill-prepared for these scenarios, and so on either side of the North Atlantic. This ultimately leads to the question whether the ESCB, whose composite structure shields it better against neomercantilist attacks, and the euro as a reserve currency could benefit from a less independent Federal Reserve.

Labour and Applied Economics
Jannis Kück, Heinrich-Heine-Universität Düsseldorf:
Learning control variables and instruments for causal analysis in observational data

Abstract:
This study introduces a data-driven, machine learning-based method to detect suitable control variables and instruments for assessing the causal effect of a treatment on an outcome in observational data, if they exist. Our approach tests the joint existence of instruments, which are associated with the treatment but not directly with the outcome (at least conditional on observables), and suitable control variables, conditional on which the treatment is exogenous, and learns the partition of instruments and control variables from the observed data. The detection of sets of instruments and control variables relies on the condition that proper instruments are conditionally independent of the outcome given the treatment and suitable control variables. We establish the consistency of our method for detecting control variables and instruments under certain regularity conditions, investigate the finite sample performance through a simulation study, and provide an empirical application to labor market data from the Job Corps study.

The next EconNewsletter will be published **on Monday, November 10, 2025.**

Editorial deadline: **Friday, November 7, 2025.**

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