



Fachbereich VWL / Department of Economics

EconNewsletter

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

APRIL 13 – APRIL 17, 2026

NEWSLETTER 2026-5

SEMINAR CALENDAR

HCHE Research Seminar

[Jörg Heydecke, ME/CFS Research foundation Hamburg:](#)

*Prevalence and societal costs of Long COVID and ME/CFS in Germany
– modeling based on alternative data sources using methods from the
field of natural disaster risk assessment*

Monday April 13
16:00-17:15
Esplanade 36, R. 4011/13

Quantitative Economics

[Lukas Diebold, University Carlos III de Madrid:](#)

Loanly Governments

Tuesday April 14
12:15–13:30
R. 0079 (VMP 5)

Interdisciplinary Research Seminar

[Dominik Peters, CNRS:](#)

*Reallocating Wasted Votes in Proportional Parliamentary Elections with
Thresholds*

Thursday April 16
17:15–18:45
R. 0031 (VMP 5)

ABSTRACTS

HCHE Research Seminar

Jörg Heydecke, ME/CFS Research foundation Hamburg:

Prevalence and societal costs of Long COVID and ME/CFS in Germany – modeling based on alternative data sources using methods from the field of natural disaster risk assessment

Abstract:

Jörg Heydecke presents the results of a recently published data model, released jointly by the ME/CFS Research Foundation and Risklayer. In a first-of-its-kind, both organisations underwent a holistic attempt at modelling the number of people living with either ME/CFS or Long COVID and the costs arising from these burdensome diseases in Germany and made the results publicly available. For the five-year period between 2020 and 2024, Long COVID and ME/CFS cost Germany more than €250 billion. In 2024 alone, Long COVID and ME/CFS cost €63.1 billion, equating to 1.5% of the country's gross domestic product (GDP) the same year. Using an innovative approach, by combining existing data and findings from literature with novel data from a model specifically developed for this report, the authors show that, at the end of 2024, 871,086 people in Germany were likely living with Long COVID, while an additional 650,183 people were living with ME/CFS (the latter includes ME/CFS diagnosed as a result of COVID-19/Long COVID). In total, more than 1.5 million people in Germany were living with either Long COVID or ME/CFS at the end of 2024.

Quantitative Economics

Lukas Diebold, University Carlos III de Madrid:

Loanly Governments

Abstract:

We compile a new dataset on government liabilities by instrument for 33 advanced economies and document that a substantial share of government debt consists of loans rather than bonds. To study governments' loan-bond portfolio choice, we exploit high-frequency variation in bond yields around sovereign credit rating announcements. Our analysis yields three main findings. First, increasing bond yields cause the government to substitute from bond to loan-based borrowing. Second, this substitution is mirrored by foreign creditors, who reduce their direct bond holdings and increasingly provide funding indirectly through domestic bank loans. Third, this shift toward domestic bank loans is associated with elevated levels of financial distress. Finally, we discuss how these findings can be rationalized when repatriating government debt through domestic banks reduces sovereign default risk. This mitigates the initial bond yield increase, albeit at the expense of higher bank balance sheet risk.

Interdisciplinary Research Seminar

Dominik Peters, CNRS:

Reallocating Wasted Votes in Proportional Parliamentary Elections with Thresholds

Abstract:

In many proportional parliamentary elections, electoral thresholds (typically 3-5%) are used to promote stability and governability by preventing the election of parties with very small representation. However, these thresholds often result in a significant number of “wasted votes” cast for parties that fail to meet the threshold, which reduces representativeness. One proposal is to allow voters to specify replacement votes, by either indicating a second choice party or by ranking a subset of the parties, but there are several ways of deciding on the scores of the parties (and thus the composition of the parliament) given those votes. We introduce a formal model of party voting with thresholds, and compare a variety of party selection rules axiomatically, and experimentally using a dataset we collected during the 2024 European election in France. We identify three particularly attractive rules, called Direct Winners Only (DO), Single Transferable Vote (STV) and Greedy Plurality (GP).

ACTIVITIES OF DEPARTMENT MEMBERS

Online Writing Retreat – Raum und Zeit für die Doktorarbeit

Auch im Frühling soll das Schreiben an der Dissertation nicht zu kurz kommen: Das Schreibzentrum lädt vom Dienstag, 28. April bis Donnerstag, 30. April 2026 wieder Promovierende aller Fächer der Universität Hamburg ein zu einem Online Writing Retreat. Jeweils von 9 bis 16 Uhr bieten wir Ihnen die Möglichkeit, sich voll und ganz auf das Schreiben der Doktorarbeit zu konzentrieren, nebenbei Neues über das Schreiben zu lernen und sich mit anderen Doktorand:innen auszutauschen.

Das Online Writing Retreat ermöglicht Ihnen produktives Schreiben zu festen Zeiten und motivierenden Austausch mit anderen. Drei Tage hintereinander öffnen wir für Sie einen digitalen Schreibraum, in den Sie vom heimischen Schreibtisch aus (oder wo immer Sie sich gerade befinden) eintreten können. Wir strukturieren für Sie die Schreibzeit, ermöglichen Zeit für Gespräche und bieten Ihnen ergänzend in kurzen Impulsworkshops Anregungen zu Themen rund um die Promotion.

Am produktivsten ist es natürlich, wenn Sie an allen drei Tagen teilnehmen. Wenn ausreichend Plätze vorhanden sind, ist es aber auch möglich, nur an einzelnen Tagen dabei zu sein. Schreiben Sie uns dazu bitte einfach eine kurze Mail.

Anmeldung: Bitte klicken Sie im OpenOLAT-Raum „Online Writing Retreat für Promovierende der UHH April 2026“ links auf Anmeldung und schreiben Sie sich bei „Angemeldete OWR April 2026“ ein: <https://www.openolat.uni-hamburg.de/url/RepositoryEntry/548962506>

Sollten alle 30 Plätze belegt sein, werden Sie automatisch auf der Warteliste nach Reihenfolge der Anmeldung geführt.

Bitte leiten Sie diese Nachricht gerne an andere Promovierende der UHH weiter.

Die Ansprechpartnerinnen für das Online Writing Retreat des Schreibzentrums sind

Dr. Anne Benteler, Susannah Ewing und Dr. Mirjam Schubert;

Nachfragen gerne per Mail an schreibzentrum.hul@uni-hamburg.de

The next EconNewsletter will be published on Monday, April 20, 2026.

Editorial deadline: Friday, April 17, 2026.

EconNewsletter

Department of Economics

University of Hamburg

Von-Melle-Park 5, 20146 Hamburg

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