



NEWSLETTER 2020-27

CALENDAR:

Departmental Seminar

Martina Kirchberger (Trinity College Dublin):
Perpetual Motion: Human Mobility and spatial Frictions in three African Countries

Monday, Dec 07
16:00-17:30
Zoom-meeting

IOS/UR Seminar (Prof. Frensch)

Ivan Lyubimov (Russian Presidential Academy of National Economy and Public Administration):
How to make Belarus more complex? Belarusian export diversification opportunities

Tuesday, Dec 08
13:30-15:00
Zoom-meeting

Economic and Social History Seminar

Arnd Kluge (Hof):
Currywurst & Co. Geschichte des Fast Food in Deutschland

Wednesday, Dec 09
18:00-20:15
Zoom-meeting

ABSTRACTS AND FURTHER INFORMATION:

Departmental Seminar

Martina Kirchberger:

Perpetual Motion: Human Mobility and spatial Frictions in three African Countries

Abstract: Frictions affecting human mobility have been identified as important potential sources of the spatial gaps in wages and living standards that characterize many low-income countries. However, little direct data has been available to characterize mobility. Many surveys and censuses provide only limited information and focus on longer-term migration decisions. In this paper, we use a novel data source that provides highly detailed location data on more than one million devices across three large African countries for an entire year. This allows us to examine high-frequency mobility patterns for a subset of high-quality observations for whom we can determine home locations confidently. We link our users with spatial data on population density and nationally representative micro-survey data to characterize this non-random sample. This allows us to document how representative the home locations of our users are and how smartphone users differ from other individuals. We then propose a number of metrics to measure high-frequency mobility. Our rich data allow us to characterize mobility at various spatial and temporal scales. We find that users are remarkably mobile in terms of the fraction of days seen at least 10km away from their home location, and the average distance for non-home location pings. Individuals residing in low-density locations are well linked to high-density locations. A significant fraction of visitors to the largest cities comes from non-urban areas. Finally, we examine how sensitive travel is to distance. We find that across a wide range of spatial and temporal scales our estimates are in line with previous gravity estimates in the literature.

Info:

Zoom Link: <https://uni-regensburg.zoom.us/j/92822525842?pwd=YTdPY2l1RHJGK2NjSitxOEpYbU5Edz09>

Meeting-ID: 928 2252 5842

Password: 581926

IOS/UR Seminar (Prof. Frensch)

Ivan Lyubimov:

How to make Belarus more complex? Belarusian export diversification opportunities

Abstract: The economy of Belarus has been in stagnation for the past 10 years. This is largely due to the long-standing problems of its key producers. Although the Belarusian economy comprises a large number of manufacturers producing technologically complex output, it manages to export such goods predominantly to the markets of its traditional partners of the former Soviet Union. For Belarus to develop its export capabilities, it is vital to join global technological chains in order to benefit from their superior technological, organizational and marketing know-how. However, the country is unlikely to reproduce the success of Central and Eastern European economies, which benefited from the widescale investment inflows during the transition stage. Today, CEE producers are still predominantly focused on less complex production such as assembly, and therefore are hardly able to play the role of technological donors for Belarus. As for the more developed economies, growing skepticism regarding industrial offshoring might seriously undermine their willingness to invest in Belarus. Most likely, the Belarusian economy will need to search for production partners from different geographic locations. We shall discuss this possibility for Belarus in more detail.

Info:

Zoom Link: <https://ios-regensburg-de.zoom.us/j/85951885248>

Meeting ID: 859 5188 5248

Economic and Social History Seminar

Arnd Kluge:

Currywurst & Co. Geschichte des Fast Food in Deutschland

Abstract: Obwohl jeder Fast Food kennt, ist erstaunlich wenig Sicheres zu dessen Geschichte bekannt. Vorurteile sind weit verbreitet. Fast Food ist weder eine Frucht amerikanischer Imbissketten noch das Junk Food von Industriekonzernen. Es gibt einen spezifisch deutschen Weg des Fast Food, und oft spielte bei der Einführung neuer Produkte und Vertriebslinien die Förderung der Gesundheit eine Rolle. Auch zu den Theorien der Fleißrevolution und der zunehmenden Beschleunigung aller Lebensbereiche seit dem Industriezeitalter passt Fast Food nur bedingt. Im Vortrag werden fördernde und hemmende Faktoren zur Ausbreitung von Fast Food seit dem Mittelalter aufgezeigt. Erst als das bürgerliche Zeitalter zu Ende ging (oder seiner Vollendung entgegen ging, je nach Standpunkt), begann der Siegeszug des schnellen Essens.

Info:

Zoom Link: <https://uni-regensburg.zoom.us/j/99496312592>

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