



NEWSLETTER 2021-11

CALENDAR:

Departmental Seminar

Glenn W. Harrison (Georgia State University):
Do No Harm? The Welfare Consequences of Behavioural Interventions

Monday, May 10
 16:00-17:30
 Zoom-meeting

IOS/UR Seminar (Prof. Frensch)

Bernd Hayo (University of Marburg):
Between Fear Mongers and Samaritans: Does Information Provision Affect Attitudes towards the Right of Asylum in Germany?

Special Time
 Tuesday, May 11
 13:30- 15:00
 Zoom-meeting

Lunch Seminar

Aleksandr Alekseev (University of Regensburg):
The Power of Incentives

Wednesday, May 12
 12:00-13:30
 Zoom-meeting

Economic and Social History Seminar

Georg Simmerl (München):
Zum strategischen Wechselspiel zwischen ökonomischem Regieren und öffentlicher Kritik in den Anfangsjahren der Gründerkrise (1873-1876)

Wednesday, May 12
 17:15-19:30
 Zoom-meeting

ABSTRACTS AND FURTHER INFORMATION:

Departmental Seminar

Glenn W. Harrison (Georgia State University):

Do No Harm? The Welfare Consequences of Behavioural Interventions

Abstract: The principle of “do no harm” has long been established in the medical field in relation to proposed new drugs, procedures and devices. In that setting, we expect tests of clinical *efficacy* before the *effectiveness* of interventions are tested in the field. We propose that behavioral interventions in economics, where possible, be subject to tests of efficacy before being applied in the field, to provide priors that they can be expected to be effective in the field and “do no harm.” We demonstrate one way to do this, by conducting an experiment in which we randomly assign individuals in the lab to a range of behavioural interventions that are typically used to promote index insurance in the field in low-income countries. Based on elicited risk preferences we estimate the expected individual-level welfare gains and losses from insurance decisions, and compare these across intervention arms. Although all interventions significantly increase take-up, and some increase understanding, we find *no evidence that our behavioural interventions lead to an average increase in consumer welfare* for all interventions.

Info:

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

Meeting-ID: 928 2252 5842

Password: 581926

IOS/UR Seminar (Prof. Frensch)

Bernd Hayo (University of Marburg):

Between Fear Mongers and Samaritans: Does Information Provision Affect Attitudes towards the Right of Asylum in Germany?

Abstract: We utilise information experiments to elicit the German public’s attitude towards the right of asylum. We randomly assign interviewees to different groups and ‘treat’ each group with different information about the asylum-seekers that came to Germany in 2015 and 2016. Treatments involve information about (i) the total number of asylum-seekers, (ii) the fiscal costs and (iii) potential long-term benefits associated with accepting refugees, (iv) the share of Muslim asylum-seekers, and (v) the share of war refugees. Providing information about the fiscal costs associated with accepting refugees, and about the share of Muslim refugees, significantly increases the likelihood of opposing the right of asylum. These effects are more pronounced for middle-income earners and respondents with a low level of education. Deviations of people’s beliefs from the actual numbers can affect their attitudes: respondents who underestimated the share of Muslim refugees are more likely to call for abolishing the right of asylum.

Info:

Zoom Link: <https://ios-regensburg-de.zoom.us/j/84542110359>

Lunch Seminar

Aleksandr Alekseev (University of Regensburg):

The Power of Incentives

Abstract: I study the optimal design of monetary incentives in economic experiments. I define a Budget Minimization problem in which a researcher chooses the level of monetary incentives that allows her to find a predicted treatment effect between the two groups for the conventional levels of significance and power while minimizing the total expected experimental budget. I prove that this problem has a solution in several common experimental settings. I illustrate the properties of the solution using some existing experiments. In some cases, providing low monetary incentives for a large number of subjects is optimal. In other cases, somewhat counter-intuitively, providing high monetary incentives for a relatively small number of subjects turns out to be cost-efficient. I discuss the implications of my results for the design of new economic experiments, as well as replications.

Info:

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

Meeting-ID: 928 2252 5842

Password: 581926

Economic and Social History Seminar

Georg Simmerl (München):

Zum strategischen Wechselspiel zwischen ökonomischem Regieren und öffentlicher Kritik in den Anfangsjahren der Gründerkrise (1873-1876)

Abstract: Galt die erste Wirtschaftskrise in der Geschichte des deutschen Nationalstaats der bundesrepublikanischen Nachkriegshistoriographie noch als Wegscheide, an der der Niedergang des (deutschen) Liberalismus besiegelt worden sei, so wurden zuletzt revisionistische Ansätze formuliert. Sie lassen sich in einer neuen Kulturgeschichte der sogenannten „Gründerkrise“ zusammenführen, die der Frage nachgeht, wie diese Krise von den Zeitgenossen verstanden wurde und welche Strategien des ökonomischen Krisenregierens daraus erwachsen. Anhand von vier Episoden – Rettungsbemühungen während der Börsenpaniken (1873), Reichsbankgründung (1874), Anflauen des Antisemitismus (1875), Bismarcks erste Rede zur Krisenpolitik (1876) – lassen sich nicht nur Genese und Kohärenz jener Regierungsstrategien erfassen, die sich später in Sozialistengesetzen, Zollerhöhungen und der Ausweisung osteuropäischer Juden niederschlugen. Es wird auch gezeigt, dass diese – als Möglichkeiten – im liberalen Denken selbst angelegt waren.

Info:

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

NEW PUBLICATIONS:

Aleksandr Alekseev's paper "*Experiments on the Fly*", which is joint work with Vjollca Sadiraj, David Sjoquist, and James Alm, is published in *Journal of Economic Behavior & Organization*, available online: <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0167268121001414?dgcid=coauthor>.

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email to econ.news@ur.de

Editorial deadline for Newsletter No. 2021-12:
Wednesday, May 12 – 11 am

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