



## NEWSLETTER 2021-12

## CALENDAR:

**Departmental Seminar**

Nicola Lacetera (University of Toronto):  
*Social Support for Markets and "Just Prices"*

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

**IOS/UR Seminar (Prof. Frensch)**

Olga Shemyakina (Georgia Institute of Technology):  
*Land Reform and Child Health in the Kyrgyz Republic*

Tuesday, May 18  
 15:00 – 16:30  
 Zoom-meeting

**Economic and Social History Seminar**

Sibylle Lehmann-Hasemeyer (Universität Hohenheim):  
*Die Rentenreform von 1957 und ihr Einfluss auf das  
 Wahlverhalten*

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

**IOS/UR Seminar (Prof. Frensch)**

Karine Torosyan (International School of Economics at Tbilisi State  
 University (ISET)):  
*Assessing the Impact of Technological Change on Similar  
 Occupations: Implications for Occupational Mobility*

**Special Date & Time**  
 Thursday, May 20  
 13:30 – 15:00  
 Zoom-meeting

## ABSTRACTS AND FURTHER INFORMATION:

### Departmental Seminar

Nicola Lacetera (University of Toronto):

*Social Support for Markets and "Just Prices"*

(Joint Work with J. J. Elias and M. Macis)

---

*Abstract:* Certain events, such as a surge in demand not accompanied with an expansion in supply, may lead companies to increase prices of a good or service. However, higher prices are often considered morally unacceptable. Absent the social support for these practices, a market may unravel and companies may suffer reputational costs. Higher prices, however, might be necessary to incentivize greater supply, or reallocation of goods across geographical areas. These efficiency-morality dilemmas characterize many market design and regulation choices; the COVID-19 epidemic has made these tradeoffs more salient and consequential. We conduct randomized survey experiments with US and Canadian residents to study attitudes toward market-based transactions, with a specific focus on whether and how people perceive and elaborate tradeoffs between competing values and goals. In our survey, participants will express their views and preferences over scenarios where companies increase the prices of certain goods in particular circumstances and scenarios where public authorities prohibit these price increases. We manipulate the product of interest, the cause of the price increase, and the salience of tradeoffs between low prices and potential supply shortages. In this talk, I will present the design and the findings from two pilots.

### Info:

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

Meeting-ID: 928 2252 5842

Password: 581926

### IOS/UR Seminar (Prof. Frensch)

Olga Shemyakina (Georgia Institute of Technology):

*Land Reform and Child Health in the Kyrgyz Republic*

---

*Abstract:* Can the establishment of private property rights to land improve child health and nutrition outcomes? We exploit a natural experiment in the Kyrgyz Republic following the collapse of socialism, whereby the government rapidly liquidated state and collective farms containing 75 percent of agricultural land and distributed it to individuals, providing 99-year transferable use rights. We use household surveys collected before, during, and after the privatization reform and spatial variation in its timing to identify its health and nutrition impacts. We find that young children aged 0-5 exposed to land privatization for longer periods of time accumulated significantly greater gains in height and weight, both critical measures of long-term health and nutrition. Health improvements appear to be driven by increases in consumption of home-produced food rather than increased income from sale of production, likely due to under-developed markets. We find minimal impacts on urban-dwelling children affected only indirectly by the reform.

### Info:

Zoom Link: <https://ios-regensburg-de.zoom.us/j/86887882979>

**Economic and Social History Seminar**

Sibylle Lehmann-Hasemeyer (Universität Hohenheim):

*Die Rentenreform von 1957 und ihr Einfluss auf das Wahlverhalten*

*Abstract:* In der Geschichte der deutschen Sozialversicherung markiert die Rentenreform von 1957 die größte schlagartige Verbesserung der wirtschaftlichen Situation der aktuellen und zukünftigen Renteneempfänger. Die laufenden Renten erhöhten sich in diesem Jahr um durchschnittlich 60 Prozent und das zukünftige Rentenniveau wurde von nun an automatisch dem wachsenden Wohlstand der Erwerbsbevölkerung angepasst. Wenn die von Ökonomen vermuteten Zusammenhänge zwischen dem Verhalten der Haushalte und der Ausgestaltung der Rentenversicherung tatsächlich bestehen, sollten sie insbesondere im Zuge der quantitativ so bedeutsamen Rentenreform von 1957 empirisch zu beobachten sein. Notwendige Voraussetzung für eine zeitnahe Verhaltensänderung war allerdings, dass die betroffenen Haushalte die Bedeutung der Rentenreform überhaupt inhaltlich verstanden. Wir untersuchen deshalb in einem ersten Schritt, ob es Wählergruppen gab, die die Durchführung der Rentenreform durch Stimmabgabe zugunsten der verantwortlichen Regierungspartei CDU in besonderem Maße honorierten. Als Datenquelle nutzen wir Wählerbefragungen und Wahlergebnisse im Jahr 1957. Die oft geäußerte Behauptung, Adenauer habe seine absolute Mehrheit der Rentenreform zu verdanken gehabt, steht somit auch auf dem Prüfstand.

**Info:**

Zoom Link: <https://uni-mannheim.zoom.us/j/9840371383?pwd=M0ltYlRrN1Z3ekdHeGM5anZYUT09>

**IOS/UR Seminar (Prof. Frensch)**

Karine Torosyan (International School of Economics at Tbilisi State University (ISET)):

*Assessing the Impact of Technological Change on Similar Occupations: Implications for Occupational Mobility*

*Abstract:* Technological change has and will continue to have pervasive impacts on the labor market. These impacts are particularly noticeable in the types of work that people do. In extreme cases, capital replaces workers and they must find new jobs, which has implications for occupational mobility. A large body of work has assessed the mobility for different types of workers and the impact of technological change on mobility. The present study builds on this body of research by examining the impact of technological change on occupations grouped by their similarity in terms of human capital requirements and work type. This is done by clustering occupations based on these characteristics, aggregating projected gains and losses in jobs within clusters of similar occupations and assessing the degree to which these changes are driven by technological factors. The results of our analysis suggest that occupational groups that combine routine service jobs and basic manual jobs characterized by low and average education requirements and low wages will be most intensively impacted by technological change. This concentration of jobs threatened by technological change within groups of similar occupations means that mobility within these groups will be very limited. Migration of workers into alternative occupational groups will imply longer adjustment periods and higher costs of mobility. The role of public policy in preparing for and facilitating this adjustment is crucial.

**Info:**

Zoom Link: <https://ios-regensburg-de.zoom.us/j/88305981900>

**TALKS AND PRESENTATIONS:**

On 7 May, **Johanna Röhrs** presented her paper *“Income Taxation and Job Creation”* at the ZEW Public Finance Conference.

We gratefully acknowledge financial support of the Departmental Seminar by the Regensburger Universitätsstiftung Hans Vielberth.



**RegensburgEconNews**

Newsletter of the Institute of Economics and Econometrics,  
University of Regensburg

To subscribe to / unsubscribe from this newsletter,  
please go to [https://www-mailman.uni-regensburg.de/  
mailman/listinfo/regensburgeconnews](https://www-mailman.uni-regensburg.de/mailman/listinfo/regensburgeconnews) or send an  
email to [econ.news@ur.de](mailto:econ.news@ur.de)

Editorial deadline for Newsletter No. 2021-13:  
Wednesday, May 19 – 11 am

**FAKULTÄT FÜR  
WIRTSCHAFTSWISSENSCHAFTEN**

INSTITUT FÜR  
VOLKSWIRTSCHAFTSLEHRE UND  
ÖKONOMETRIE

Universitätsstraße 31 ■ 93040 Regensburg

Newsletter-Redaktion:

Telefon: +49 941 943-2710

Fax: +49 941 943-2734

E-Mail: [econ.news@ur.de](mailto:econ.news@ur.de)

Internet: <https://go.ur.de/econ-news>

Bildnachweis: [http://commons.wikimedia.org/  
wiki/File:Regensburg\\_08\\_2006.jpg](http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Regensburg_08_2006.jpg)