



NEWSLETTER 2021|19

CALENDAR

Departmental Seminar

Robin Maialeh (UCT Prague)

"Success-Breeds-Success Distributional Dynamics in Stochastic Competitive Systems"

Lunch Seminar

Kristof Dascher (University of Regensburg)

"Streets are for Houses, or are Houses for Streets?: An Economic Approach to Modernist Architecture and Urban Connectivity"

Mon, July 5

16:00 - 17:30

Zoom-Meeting

Wed, July 7

12:00 - 13:30

Zoom-Meeting



ABSTRACTS AND FURTHER INFORMATION

Departmental Seminar

Robin Maialeh (UCT Prague)

“Success-Breeds-Success Distributional Dynamics in Stochastic Competitive Systems”

Simon (1955) himself has shown that distributional principles are not necessarily field-specific. Frequent examinations across disciplines refer to similar types of power-law distributions. Such distributions inherently incline toward concentration of the outcome variable, may it be economic wealth in society, citations of academic papers or successful innovations of firms. These patterns are often attributed to the so-called “success-breeds-success” principle (SBS). The first goal of this paper is to decipher fundamentals of this principle across various disciplines. Secondly, the aim is to formulate a supradisciplinary model that will serve as a default analytical tool for modelling SBS dynamics within competitive stochastic systems. For this purpose, we put homogeneous agents with self-preserving behaviour into competition for scarce resources. Then, we run a simulation of 25 million mutual interactions. The results show diverging accumulation trajectories as the initially luckier agent captures still greater fraction of appropriable resources over time.

Info:

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

Lunch Seminar

Kristof Dascher (University of Regensburg)

“Streets are for Houses, or are Houses for Streets?: An Economic Approach to Modernist Architecture and Urban Connectivity”

Pre-modern architecture had houses align with the street. Modernist architecture instead turned houses away from the street. And so where pre-modern architecture contributed to street safety by providing ‘eyes on the street’ (as famously stipulated by Jane Jacobs), modernist construction emphasized ‘light and air’ (as equally famously suggested by Le Corbusier). This paper negotiates the trade-off between ‘light and air’ and ‘eyes on the street’. We first attempt to quantify these ‘eyes on the street’. Houses fronting the street offer vantage points and induce lines of sight intersecting the street. We take these points and lines to be vertices and edges of a housing-induced visibility graph. The greater this graph’s connectivity, the ‘more interwoven’ the urban fabric in public space and hence the safer urban travel. Modern developers ignore their role in contributing to connectivity. Modern developers focus on the economies of scale to be had from providing ‘light and air’ instead. The resulting equilibrium has too much light and too little connectivity. We conclude with a preliminary view of why urban planners fail to penalize (subsidize) modernist (pre-modern type) architecture, and which institutional reforms may be instrumental in overcoming this failure.

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Wednesday, July 7 | 11 am

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