



NEWSLETTER 2022|13

CALENDAR

Departmental Seminar

Cormac O'Dea (Yale University)

"Efficiency in Household Decision Making: Evidence from the Retirement Savings of US Couples"

IOS Seminar

Paul Dower (University of Wisconsin-Madison)

"Control through Empowerment: Evidence from Nation-building in Soviet Central Asia"

Lunch Seminar

Kerstin Radler (Freie Wähler)

"Power Lunch"

Mon, June 13

16:00 - 17:30

H 26

Tue, June 14

16:00 - 17:30

Zoom-Meeting

Wed, June 15

12:00 - 13:00

H 26



ABSTRACTS AND FURTHER INFORMATION

Departmental Seminar

Cormac O'Dea (Yale University)

"Efficiency in Household Decision Making: Evidence from the Retirement Savings of US Couples"

Joint work with T. Choukhmane and L. Goodman

Pareto efficiency is a core assumption of most models of spousal behavior within households. We test this assumption using a new dataset covering the retirement saving contributions of over a million U.S. couples. While a vast literature has failed to reject household efficiency in developed countries, we find evidence of widespread inefficiency in our setting: retirement contributions are not allocated to the account of the spouse with the highest employer match rate. This lack of coordination cannot be explained by inertia, auto-enrollment, or simple heuristics. Instead, we find that indicators of weaker marital commitment correlate with the incidence of inefficient allocations.

Info:

in person

IOS Seminar

Paul Dower (University of Wisconsin-Madison)

"Control through Empowerment: Evidence from Nation-building in Soviet Central Asia"

We study the effect of the inception of the Central Asian states in the 1920s on stability and nation-building in the region. The Bolsheviks instituted autonomous Soviet republics in Central Asia by delineating the territory that had not had national borders before and, in each republic, gave political power to a particular ethnic group among those residing on its territory. We combine novel historical data on local insurgency against the Soviet state and intergroup conflict in Central Asia from declassified archives of Soviet police reports with historical census data on local group composition. We find that the reform substantially reduced the level of insurgent activity against the Soviet power and lowered conflict between local groups. The national delimitation of Central Asia resembles very closely to an ideal territorial division into states that would minimize within-state group segregation with one important exception: Northeast Kazakhstan, with its large presence of European migrants, is a separate state. We show that the main effect of the reform comes from the areas that comply to the "ideal-division" rule. The Europeans in Northeast Kazakhstan, in contrast, revolted against the reform. We also show that Soviet investments in human capital facilitated nation-building for the titular national group.

Info:

<https://ios-regensburg-de.zoom.us/j/61457034232>

Meeting ID: 614 5703 4232



Lunch Seminar

Kerstin Radler (Freie Wähler)

“Power Lunch”

Once every semester, as a part of our honors program, we invite a local political decision-maker or member of the state or federal parliament for a “Power Lunch”, where our honors students have the opportunity to discuss current policy issues and to find out what a political career is really like.

Info:

in person



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Wednesday, June 15 | 11 am

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