



NEWSLETTER 2022|29

CALENDAR

Departmental Seminar

Björn Bartling (University of Zurich)

"Free to Fail? Paternalistic Preferences in the United States"

Mon, Dec 19

16:00 - 17:30

Zoom-Meeting

IOS Seminar

Alisher Aldashev (Kazakh-British Technical University)

"Economic Persistence Despite Adverse Policies"

Tue, Dec 20

16:00 - 17:30

Zoom-Meeting



ABSTRACTS AND FURTHER INFORMATION

Departmental Seminar

Björn Bartling (University of Zurich)

“Free to Fail? Paternalistic Preferences in the United States”

Joint work with A. Cappelen, H. Hermes, M. Skivenes and B. Tungodden

We study paternalistic preferences in two large-scale, incentivized experiments with participants sampled from the general population in the United States. Participants, acting as third-party spectators, decide whether to intervene to prevent another individual, the stakeholder, from failing to choose their preferred option. We find causal evidence for the nature of the intervention being of great importance for the willingness to intervene: only about a third of the spectators implement a hard intervention that restricts the stakeholder’s choice set, while a large majority implement a soft intervention that provides information without restricting the choice set. The extent to which the stakeholder may be seen as personally responsible for failing does not have a substantial effect on the spectators’ willingness to intervene. We introduce a simple theoretical framework with two paternalistic types – libertarian paternalists and welfarists – and show that these two types can account for most of the spectator behavior. A majority of the spectators are welfarists, but a significant minority of one-third of the spectators can be classified as libertarian paternalists. Our results shed light on attitudes toward paternalistic policies and why soft interventions have gained strong support in recent years.

Info:

<https://uni-regensburg.zoom.us/j/92822525842?pwd=YTdPY2I1RHJGK2NjSitxOEpybU5Edz09>

IOS Seminar

Alisher Aldashev (Kazakh-British Technical University)

“Economic Persistence Despite Adverse Policies”

We study the long-run persistence of relative economic well-being under adverse government policies using a combination of historical and contemporaneous data from Kyrgyzstan. After controlling for unobservable local effects, the economic well-being of Kyrgyz households in the 2010s correlates with the early twentieth century average wealth of their tribes. Inequality at the tribe level in the 2010s correlates with wealth inequality in the early twentieth century. The likely channels of persistence are the inter-generational transmission of human capital, relative status, political power and cultural traits. Transmission of material wealth, differences in natural endowments or geographic sorting cannot explain persistence.

Info:

<https://ios-regensburg-de.zoom.us/j/63782085281?pwd=d3hkMHd5Mm9vSzBKVjlkL0I5ZzVJZz09>

Meeting ID: 637 8208 5281

Password: 346453



CONFERENCES, PRESENTATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Vanessa Schöller received a travel grant for early-career female scientists from the University of Regensburg for her research stay at the UCLA Anderson School of Management.

LEAVING STAFF

Nicolas Apfel completed his PhD in economics at the chair of Andreas Roider in 2021, and now he holds a position as postdoctoral researcher at the University of Surrey. In January 2023, he will be joining the Department of Economics of the University of Southampton as a lecturer.

Silvio Städter, postdoc at the chair of Andreas Roider, left the Department of Economics to join Wismar University of Applied Sciences as a full-time lecturer in economics.

Alexander Lauf completed his PhD in economics at the chair of Andreas Roider in 2022, and he took up a position as team leader of ERP Consulting at MDIS Consulting, Salching.

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Wednesday, Dec 21 | 11 am

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