NEWSLETTER 2022|7

CALENDAR

IOS Seminar
Joshua Newell (University of Michigan-Ann Arbor)

"Tracking the Economic Geography of Commodities: Avocados, Beef, and Wood"

Tue, May 3
14:00 - 15:30
SG.214 and
Zoom-Meeting

Lunch Seminar
Tobias Hartl (University of Regensburg)

"Fractional Unobserved Components Models"

Wed, May 4
12:00 - 13:00
H26 and
Zoom-Meeting

Economic and Social History Seminar
Hakon Albers (Halle)

"Changepoints in History? The Maunder Minimum and Food Price Shocks in Pre-industrial Germany"

Wed, May 4
18:00 - 20:15
VG 1.37 and
Zoom-Meeting

IOS Seminar

Joshua Newell (University of Michigan-Ann Arbor)

"Tracking the Economic Geography of Commodities: Avocados, Beef, and Wood"

Have you ever wandered into a store and wondered to yourself, where do the products we consume come from? And under what conditions are they produced? As a result of our globalized world, we are largely disconnected from where and how these products are made. This presentation tracks the lives of three commodities familiar to all of us —avocados, beef, and wood— from the production geographies where they are sourced to their point of consumption. Using a methodology known as Tracking Corporate Actors across Time and Space (TRACAST), I illustrate how, by combining trade data, with remote sensing, spatial analysis, and interviews, researchers can make opaque supply chains more visible and transparent. This leads to all sorts of inquiries related to environmental sustainability, environmental justice, efficiency, and governance.

Info:
in person and via Zoom
https://ios-regensburg-de.zoom.us/j/62922430336?pwd=TFZnaXNaZnVqWlM5blVudzd6MFRtUT09
Meeting ID: 629 2243 0336
Passcode: 681048

Lunch Seminar
Tobias Hartl (University of Regensburg)

"Fractional Unobserved Components Models"

This paper addresses the decomposition of time series into trend and cycle for the general state space model $y_t = x_t + c_t$, where c_t represents a stationary cyclical component, the d-th difference of the trend x_t is assumed to be a stationary martingale difference sequence, and both x_t and c_t are unobserved. The model allows for d in the set of positive real numbers, thus generalizes unobserved components models to fractionally integrated trends, and does not require any prior knowledge about d.

A closed-form solution for the estimation of trend and cycle is provided and is identical to the Kalman filter and smoother but computationally superior. In addition, a conditional sum-of-squares estimator allowing for the joint estimation of d together with all other model parameters is introduced and is shown to be consistent. Monte Carlo studies reveal good estimation properties of the proposed estimators for parameters and unobserved components in finite samples, both in comparison to nonparametric estimators and integer-integrated unobserved components models. Practical benefits of the new methods are demonstrated in several applications, among others to global temperature curves.

Info:

in person and via Zoom
https://uni-regensburg.zoom.us/j/92822525842?pwd=YTdPY2l1RHJGK2NjSitxOEpYbU5Edz09

Economic and Social History Seminar
Hakon Albers (Halle)

"Changepoints in History? The Maunder Minimum and Food Price Shocks in
Pre-industrial Germany"

Climate and weather are important factors for the supply of food. We demonstrate an effect of climate change on past economies. During the Maunder Minimum (1645 – 1715) climatic conditions for food production worsened considerably. Based on grain prices as an aggregate proxy for the access to food, this paper shows that the Maunder Minimum was associated with substantially more food price crises. Changepoint tests reveal that the variance pattern of the aggregate grain price changes in accordance with the usual periodization of the Maunder Minimum. Given the detrimental impact of high food prices on demographic variables, health, and human capital outcomes, this period likely had negative consequences for long-run development.

Info:

in person and via Zoom
https://uni-regensburg.zoom.us/j/99496312592

CONFERENCES, PRESENTATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRESENTATIONS

Veronika Püschel presented her paper "Progressive Pensions as an Incentive for Labor Force Participation" (joint with F. Kindermann) at the T2M Conference at King's College London.