



NEWSLETTER 2015-21

CALENDAR:

Departmental Seminar

Rainald Borck (University of Potsdam):
Green Cities? Urbanization, Trade and the Environment

Monday, November 2
16.30–18.00
VG H26

Real Estate Seminar

Alexander Haupt (Plymouth University):
Labour Market Integration, Human Capital Formation, and Mobility

Tuesday, November 3
16.30–18.00
VG 2.35

Lunch Seminar

Gergely Horvath (FAU Erlangen-Nürnberg):
Network effects and the Black-White wage gap

Wednesday, November 4
12.00–13.30
VG 2.35

Economic and Social History Seminar

Friederike Scholten (University of Münster):
*Vorratshaltung auf adeligen Gütern –
das Beispiel Dyck (Rheinland, 19. Jh.)*

Wednesday, November 4
18.00–20.15, s. t.
VG 1.30

ABSTRACTS:**Departmental Seminar**

Rainald Borck:

Green Cities? Urbanization, Trade and the Environment

Abstract: This paper establishes a simple theoretical framework which comprises key forces that shape the structure and interrelation of cities to study the interdependencies between urban evolution and the environment. We focus on the potential of the unfettered market forces to economize on emissions. A key finding is that these forces alone may suffice to generate an urban Environmental Kuznets Curve. In particular, reducing trade costs increases per capita incomes and generates a U-shaped evolution of emissions in the process of agglomeration and redispersion. Another key result is that agglomeration per se is typically not a boon for the environment, as total emissions in the total city system are likely to rise.

Real Estate Seminar

Alexander Haupt:

Labour Market Integration, Human Capital Formation, and Mobility
(joint work with Silke Uebelmesser)

Abstract: We analyse the implications of labour market integration in a model with two regions, each of them consisting of an urban and rural area, and endogenous human capital formation. In each of the two regions, skilled individuals move into the urban area, where they benefit from local human capital externalities but suffer from congestion effects. We show that integrating the two regions can be a double-edged sword. As integration reinforces the agglomeration of skilled workers in one of the two urban areas at the expense of the other, it can reduce the individual effective income (that is, wage income corrected for education and congestion costs) in both urban areas, despite the fact that wages increase in one of them. Even if there is a 'winning' urban area in terms of a rise in effective income, human capital and total effective income in the two regions together might decline. However, integration might increase total effective income even if it depresses human capital formation. We further explore how the degree of labour mobility and the strength of the congestion effects shape the impact of integration on human capital and income.

Lunch Seminar

Gergely Horvath:

Network effects and the Black-White wage gap

Abstract: We study the impact of segregation in social networks on the disparities in labor market outcomes between Black and White workers. We provide a dynamic search and matching model of the labor market where we incorporate two kinds of network effects: i) job finding through social contacts and ii) transmission of work norms by network neighbors. When considering the first type of network effect, an increase in the level of social segregation leads to higher unemployment rates and lower wages for both the Black and White worker groups. At the same time, inter-group disparities increase, however, social segregation can account for only a negligible share of the Black-White residual wage gap. When studying the norm transmission role of social networks, the model is able to explain the whole residual wage gap, however, predicts a negative relationship between the level of social segregation and the wage gap, which contradicts the empirical evidence. We show that combining the two kinds of network effects can account for both the empirically observed magnitude of the Black-White wage gap and its increasing pattern in the level of social segregation. We use this latter model version to study the impact of policy changes on the inter-group inequality.

Economic and Social History Seminar

Friederike Scholten:

Vorratshaltung auf adeligen Gütern – das Beispiel Dyck (Rheinland, 19. Jh.)

Abstract: Adelige Güter, als Anbieter auf dem lokalen Getreidemarkt, betrieben zum Teil eine rege Versorgungspolitik, in deren Rahmen Getreide sowohl aus kommerziellen als auch aus nicht-kommerziellen Motiven bevorratet wurde. Diese Getreidevorräte dienten zum einen der Überwindung zeitlicher Spannungen zwischen Produktion und Verwendung. Zum anderen milderte die überjährige spekulative Vorratshaltung erntebedingte Preisschocks ab und konnte durch künstliche Angebotsverknappung auch als profitmaximierender Preislenkungsmechanismus eingesetzt werden. Anhand des Verwaltungsschriftguts des rheinländischen Guts Dyck nahe Neuss und Düsseldorf werden monatliche Getreideverkäufe und -vorräte in Beziehung zu städtischen Getreidepreisen gestellt. Die Analyse der lokalen Vorratspolitik liefert schließlich Hinweise auf die Einordnung des adeligen Gutsherrn zwischen paternalistischem Fürsorger und rationalem Investor.

SAVE THE DATE:

The **7th Bavarian Micro Day** will take place at the University of Passau on Friday, Nov. 20, 2015. The call for papers is available at <https://sites.google.com/site/bavarianmicroday/>.

Next **LIE Lecture** with Andreas Roider (VWL) and Hans Rott (Philosophy): Wednesday, Dec. 2, 2015 at 18:00.

Next **roots lecture in economics** with Gerda Hasselfeldt: Thursday, Dec. 10, 2015 at 18:00. Details at <http://www.roots-lecture.de/>.

The **8th Bavarian Micro Day** will take place at the University of Augsburg on Friday, June 24, 2016.

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

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Editorial deadline for Newsletter No. 2015-22:
Wednesday, November 04 – 11 am

FAKULTÄT FÜR WIRTSCHAFTSWISSENSCHAFTEN

INSTITUT FÜR VOLKSWIRTSCHAFTSLEHRE
EINSCHLIEßLICH ÖKONOMETRIE

Universitätsstraße 31 • 93040 Regensburg

Newsletter-Redaktion: [Martina Kraus-Pietsch](mailto:Martina.Kraus-Pietsch@ur.de)

Telefon: +49 941 943-2710

Fax: +49 941 943-2734

E-Mail: econ.news@ur.de

Internet: www-wiwi.ur.de/Fakultät/VWL/

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