



NEWSLETTER 2016-15

CALENDAR:

Departmental Seminar

Susanne Goldlücke (University of Konstanz):
Assigning an unpleasant job without payment

Monday, June 20
 16:30–18:00
 VG H26

Lunch Seminar

Kristina Czura (LMU München):
Willingness-to-pay for microinsurance and flexibility: Evidence from an agricultural investment lab-in-the-field experiment in Senegal

Wednesday, June 22
 12:00–13:00
 VG 2.35

Economic and Social History Seminar

Ariane Wessel (HU Berlin):
Sozialer Aufstieg im Zeitalter der Globalisierung. Jüdische Getreidehändler an der Berliner Produktenbörse 1860-1914

Wednesday, June 22
 18:00–20:15
 VG 1.30

PhD Seminar

Binh Nguyen Thanh (University of Regensburg):
The Impact of Economic Uncertainty on Housing, Labor and Financial Markets

Thursday, June 23
 10:00–11:00
 RW(S) 101

ABSTRACTS:

Departmental Seminar

Susanne Goldlücke:
Assigning an unpleasant job without payment
 (joint work with Thomas Tröger)

Abstract: How should a group of people decide to allocate a job that has to be done but is not adequately rewarded? This paper finds an optimal mechanism for the private provision of a public service in an environment without monetary transfers. All members of the group have the same cost of providing the service, but some individuals are better suited for the job than others. The optimal mechanism is a threshold rule that assigns the job randomly among volunteers if enough volunteers come forward, and otherwise assigns the job among the non-volunteers.

Lunch Seminar

Kristina Czura:

Willingness-to-pay for microinsurance and flexibility: Evidence from an agricultural investment lab-in-the-field experiment in Senegal

(joint work with Vianney Dequiedt)

Abstract: For agricultural households in developing countries, investment in a secondary income activity such as livestock farming is a usual way to enhance and smooth income. When revenue from crops is subject to shocks such investment may be more or less adjusted to the household's needs, depending on the flexibility of the market for livestock. Crop insurance and flexible investment opportunities are likely to be interrelated risk coping instruments. We test this hypothesis using data from a lab-in-the-field experiment with agricultural decision makers in rural Senegal. We find that insurance increases investment in livestock farming and the substantial willingness to pay for insurance is not responsive to the size of the insurance coverage but to the market environment: it is higher in inflexible investment decisions indicating that insurance is more valuable in incomplete and seasonal markets. Observational data from household surveys identifies risk attitudes and livestock ownership as the main determinant of positive demand for agricultural insurance.

Economic and Social History Seminar

Ariane Wessel:

Sozialer Aufstieg im Zeitalter der Globalisierung. Jüdische Getreidehändler an der Berliner Produktenbörse 1860-1914

Abstract: Der Vortrag beschäftigt sich mit dem Berliner Getreidegroßhandel im Kaiserreich. Es wird dabei von der These ausgegangen, dass die starken Veränderungen durch die Globalisierung sowie die speziellen Bedingungen am Standort Berlin den ganz überwiegend jüdischen und aus den preußischen Ostgebieten zugewanderten Getreidehändlern hervorragende Bedingungen boten, um sozial schnell im Berliner Wirtschaftsbürgertum aufzusteigen. Darüberhinausgehend fanden sich jene Kaufleute in einer hoch politisierten Branche und auf der Schnittstelle von sich zunehmend globalisierendem Handel und politisch starken, konservativ-agrarischen Interessen wieder. Die sich daraus entwickelnden Konflikte werden – ebenso wie der soziale Aufstieg - auf der Mikroebene untersucht und neu bewertet.

We gratefully acknowledge financial support of the Departmental Seminar by the Regensburger Universitätsstiftung Hans Vielberth.

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RegensburgEconNews

Newsletter of the Institute of Economics and Econometrics,
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Editorial deadline for Newsletter No. 2016-16:
Wednesday, June 22 – 11 pm

FAKULTÄT FÜR WIRTSCHAFTSWISSENSCHAFTEN

INSTITUT FÜR
VOLKSWIRTSCHAFTSLEHRE UND
ÖKONOMETRIE

Universitätsstraße 31 ■ 93040 Regensburg

Newsletter-Redaktion: Martina Kraus-Pietsch

Telefon: +49 941 943-2710

Fax: +49 941 943-2734

E-Mail: econ.news@ur.de

Internet: www-economics.ur.de

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