



NEWSLETTER 2016-16

CALENDAR:

Departmental Seminar

Sebastian Kessing (University of Siegen):
Optimal Taxation under Regional Inequality

Monday, June 27
 16:30–18:00
 VG H26

IOS Seminar

Lyazzat Nugumanova (IOS):
Energy Policy in Kazakhstan

Tuesday, June 28
 13:30–15:00
 AIFi 1.09 (Landshuter Str. 4)

Lunch Seminar

Alec Sproten (FAU Erlangen-Nürnberg):
Cues for Consumer Decision Making on a Tor Network
Cryptomarket for Drugs: Evidence from Silk Road Reloaded

Wednesday, June 29
 12:00–13:00
 VG 2.35

Economic and Social History Seminar

Josef Bauer (University of Regensburg):
Ein Fürstenhaus im Wandel der Zeit: Die Hinwendung der Fürsten von Thurn und Taxis zu der Agrar- und Forstwirtschaft im 18. und 19. Jahrhundert

Wednesday, June 29
 18:00–20:15
 VG 1.30

ABSTRACTS:**Departmental Seminar**

Sebastian Kessing:

Optimal Taxation under Regional Inequality

(joint work with Vilen Lipatov and J. Malte Zoubek)

Abstract: Combining an intensive labor supply margin with an extensive, productivity-enhancing migration margin, we determine how regional inequality and labor mobility shape optimal redistribution. We propose the use of delayed optimal-control techniques to obtain optimal tax formulae with location-dependent productivity and two-dimensional heterogeneity. Our baseline simulations using the productivity differences between large metropolitan and other regions in the US indicate that productivity-increasing internal migration can constitute a quantitatively important constraint on redistribution. Allowing for regionally differentiated taxation with location-dependent productivity, we find that marginal tax rates in high- (low-)productivity regions should be corrected downwards (upwards) relative to a no-migration benchmark.

IOS Seminar

Lyazzat Nugumanova:

Energy Policy in Kazakhstan

Abstract: The primary focus of this study is analysis of the economy-wide effects of the removal of existing energy subsidies in Kazakhstan. Total implicit consumer subsidies for energy products in Kazakhstan amounted to 6 billion USD in 2013. Consumer subsidies in Kazakhstan, expressed through low domestic energy prices which are below the full cost of recovery, predominate in quantitative terms. Energy policy reform is analyzed using computable general equilibrium approach and global data base. General equilibrium modeling is a useful tool for policy analysis to identify general directions of change in the economy due to the policy change in the country. Comparative static multiregion, multisectoral computable general equilibrium model, GTAP is applied in this study. GTAP model provides detailed linkages between different sectors of the economy. GTAP data base version 9, the latest version of GTAP data base is modified to analyze full removal of energy consumer subsidies in Kazakhstan. The results demonstrate that energy subsidies reform would have positive effect on the overall welfare largely through allocative efficiency effects, decrease of energy demand and increase of the exports of energy products. Structural changes in the economy of the country can be observed as well.

Lunch Seminar

Alec Sprotten:

Cues for Consumer Decision Making on a Tor Network Cryptomarket for Drugs: Evidence from Silk Road Reloaded

Abstract: Background: Illicit online marketplaces for drugs on the Tor network have been studied so far from a descriptive perspective and the only data available on consumer choice behavior stems from interviews with small participant samples. This article seeks to increase external validity of previous research by providing a whole-market analysis of choice behavior on a third generation online drug marketplace.

Methods: Data was collected from the Silk Road Reloaded website using web scraping software.

Consumer choice behavior, approximated by the number of views of items, was analyzed using regression methods.

Results: Attractiveness of items on the marketplace is influenced by a variety of factors: delivery time, items in stock, negative seller ratings, number of reviews, and time since the last log-in of a seller.

Conclusion: This study is the first to provide statistical evidence on consumer choice behavior on a Tor network drug marketplace. The findings confirm the qualitative results found in previous research and extend the results by systematically investigating the bits of information provided by the website. Various theories on consumer choice behavior are provided.

Economic and Social History Seminar

Josef Bauer:

Ein Fürstenhaus im Wandel der Zeit: Die Hinwendung der Fürsten von Thurn und Taxis zu der Agrar- und Forstwirtschaft im 18. und 19. Jahrhundert

Abstract: Während sich das Fürstenhaus im 18. Jahrhundert als Landes- und Grundherr den Bereichen der Land- und Forstwirtschaft genähert hatte, wurde es im 19. Jahrhundert bereits wieder dieser beiden Rollen beraubt. Das bedeute jedoch keinesfalls, dass auf diese Weise das Geschäft mit Grund und Boden weniger lohnenswert erschien. Vielmehr wurde die Landwirtschaft durch gesellschaftliche Entwicklungen und technische Fortschritte für das Haus Thurn und Taxis attraktiver und rentabler als je zuvor, was sich in einer sehr gezielten Ankaufspolitik von Gütern gerade in Bayern niederschlug. Daher stellen sich die Fragen: Wie wurden solche Güter geführt bzw. unter welchen Gesichtspunkten wurden sie verpachtet? Denn unter dieser Fragestellung lassen sich sowohl Erkenntnisse über den Entwicklungsstand der Landwirtschaft als auch über ihre Rentabilität gewinnen. Beides soll im Vortrag thematisiert werden. Als Quellen wurden v.a. Akten über die Betriebsführung und zu den Verpachtungsangelegenheiten ausgewertet.

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

REGENSBURGER UNIVERSITÄTS
STIFTUNG
HANS VIELBERTH

RegensburgEconNews

Newsletter of the Institute of Economics and Econometrics,
University of Regensburg

To subscribe to / unsubscribe from this newsletter,
please go to <https://www-mailman.uni-regensburg.de/mailman/listinfo/regensburgeconnews> or send an
email to econ.news@ur.de

Editorial deadline for Newsletter No. 2016-17:
Wednesday, June 29 – 11 pm

FAKULTÄT FÜR WIRTSCHAFTSWISSENSCHAFTEN

INSTITUT FÜR
VOLKSWIRTSCHAFTSLEHRE UND
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-economics.ur.de

Bildnachweis: http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Regensburg_08_2006.jpg