

**NEWSLETTER 2019-07****CALENDAR:****Departmental Seminar**

Olivier Deschenes (UC Santa Barbara):
*The Private and External Costs of Nuclear Phase-Outs:
Evidence from Germany*

Monday, May 6
16:30–18:00
H25

Árpád Ábrahám (European University Institute):
t.b.a.

Tuesday, May 7
16:30–18:00
VG 2.35

IOS Seminar

Dmitriy Vorobyev (University of Economics in Prague):
*Self-Selection Into Public Service When Corruption is Widespread
Evidence from Post-Soviet Russia*

Tuesday, May 7
13:30–15:00
WiOS 109 (Landshuter Str. 4)

ABSTRACTS:**Departmental Seminar**

Olivier Deschenes:

The Private and External Costs of Nuclear Phase-Outs: Evidence from Germany

Abstract: Following the Fukushima nuclear disaster of 2011, German authorities immediately shutdown half of the country's nuclear power plants, resulting in a rapid loss of almost 10 GW of capacity. The remaining half of Germany's nuclear capacity will be taken offline in 2022. This paper examines the market and environmental impacts of the first wave of the phase-out that occurred in 2011. We use detailed data on power plant operations and a novel machine learning framework to estimate the counterfactual dispatch and power-plant specific generation of entire power generation sector in Germany if the nuclear phase-out did not occur. Despite the substantial investments Germany has made in renewables, we find that much of the replacement generation to date came from fossil sources, particularly coal. We also find that the phase-out caused changes to flows between Germany and neighboring countries, primarily through reduced exports. Moreover, the phase-out increased wholesale electricity prices and raised costs in the electricity sector while also significantly increasing emissions of CO₂, PM, SO₂, and NO₂. We estimate the total net ongoing costs of the phase-out at around \$6-7 billion per year between 2011 and 2017. Roughly half of these costs are due to increased levels of local pollution which impose significant health burdens. Importantly, the increase in wholesale prices, fossil electricity generation, and health damages has persisted through six years after the initial phase-out. As such we expect the costs of the phase-out to continue rising substantially as the remaining plants are closed by 2022.

IOS Seminar

Dmitriy Vorobyev:

Self-Selection Into Public Service When Corruption is Widespread: Evidence from Post-Soviet Russia

Abstract: Drawing on experimental games and surveys conducted with students at two universities in Russia, we compare the behavioral, attitudinal, and demographic traits of students seeking public sector employment to the traits of their peers seeking jobs in the private sector. Contrary to similar studies conducted in other high-corruption contexts, such as India, we find evidence that students who prefer a public sector career display less willingness to cheat or bribe in experimental games as well as higher levels of altruism. One interpretation of these findings is that corruption in Russia results from the transformation of bureaucrats' behavior and attitudes after entering the civil service, rather than through a process of corrupt self-selection. Another interpretation is that despite widespread corruption, state employment in Russia genuinely attracts at least some of the younger generation for idealistic reasons beyond personal enrichment or job security. Implications of these and other interpretations for the creation of effective anti-corruption policies and for understanding of state capacity in contexts where corruption is widespread are discussed.

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



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Editorial deadline for Newsletter No. 2019-08:
Wednesday, May 8 – 11 am

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