



NEWSLETTER 2024|4

## CALENDAR

**Departmental Seminar**

Felix Rösel (TU Braunschweig)

"Socialist Geography meets a Market Economy: Evidence from East Germany"

**IOS Seminar**

Ion Marandici (Rutgers University-Camden)

"Oligarchs, Political Ties and Nomenklatura Capitalism in the former Soviet Union: Introducing a New Dataset"

**Mon, Feb 05**

16:00 - 17:30

H 26

**Attention:****Tue, Feb 06**

15:30 - 17:00

Zoom-Meeting



## ABSTRACTS AND FURTHER INFORMATION

### **Departmental Seminar**

Felix Rösel (TU Braunschweig)

“Socialist Geography meets a Market Economy: Evidence from East Germany”

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How do government-created industrial sites perform in the long run? We study East Germany, where large-scale relocations of industries, infrastructure, and administrations to new Socialist capital cities occurred in the 1950s and 1960s. We observe a substantial and persistent population premium in Socialist capitals, compared to a matched control group of cities. This premium, ranging from 30% at the county level to 60% at the district level, persists even after the transition to a market economy. Initially driven by industry and administration jobs, the premium has transitioned over time, now predominantly sustained by the service sector. These findings imply that industrial policies can permanently reshape spatial equilibria, surviving even regime transitions and regional structural changes.

*Info:*

in person

### **IOS Seminar**

Ion Marandici (Rutgers University-Camden)

“Oligarchs, Political Ties and Nomenklatura Capitalism in the former Soviet Union: Introducing a New Dataset”

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This paper examines the relationship between nomenklatura membership, wealth accumulation and political ties across the post-Soviet region from the 1990s up to the mid-2010s. It introduces the Post-Soviet Oligarchs (PSO) dataset, containing the sociodemographic characteristics of the super-rich across the former Soviet republics. While the article finds partial support in favour of the nomenklatura capitalism hypothesis, statistical analysis also points to distinct regional patterns of wealth and political inequality. Thus, the most extensive overlap of wealth and power is observed in the authoritarian regimes of Central Asia and the South Caucasus, where ties to the Soviet regime facilitated the exertion of political influence after 1991, enabling in turn wealth accumulation. By contrast, in democratising contexts, the connections between politicians and super-rich point to a mutually dependent relationship between the economic and political realms, with wealth featuring as a major power resource.

*Info:*

<https://ios-regensburg-de.zoom.us/j/67183078443?pwd=ZForNGNkckJ1ZjltTUZRauU9NejlCQT09>

Meeting ID: 671 8307 8443

Passcode: 911487



## CONFERENCES, PRESENTATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

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**Editorial deadline for Newsletter No. 2024|5:**

**Wednesday, February 07 | 11 am**

### **FAKULTÄT FÜR WIRTSCHAFTSWISSENSCHAFTEN**

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