



## NEWSLETTER 2020-26

## CALENDAR:

**Departmental Seminar**

Anna Raute (Queen Mary University London):  
*Paid Parental Leave and Paternity Acknowledgement*

Monday, Nov 30  
 16:00-17:30  
 Zoom-meeting

**IOS/UR Seminar (Prof. Frensch)**

Michael Alexeev (Indiana University):  
*Who profits from oil windfalls in Russian regions? Inequality, decentralized tax revenues, and corruption*

**special time**  
 Tuesday, Dec 01  
 15:00-16:30  
 Zoom-meeting

**Lunch Seminar**

Helena Fornwagner (Universität Regensburg):  
*Gut-brain axis, microbiota, and economic behavior*

Wednesday, Dec 02  
 12:00-13:30  
 Zoom-meeting

**Economic and Social History Seminar**

Tobias Jopp / Mark Spoerer / Lino Wehrheim (Universität Regensburg):  
*Turn, turn, turn: A Digital History of German Historiography, 1950-2019*

Wednesday, Dec 02  
 18:00-20:15  
 Zoom-meeting

## ABSTRACTS AND FURTHER INFORMATION:

### Departmental Seminar

Anna Raute:

*Paid Parental Leave and Paternity Acknowledgement*

**Abstract:** With a large share of children growing up in single mother households and at risk of poverty it is important to understand how public policies affect fathers' involvement in child-rearing. In this paper, we evaluate the impact of a major paid parental leave reform in Germany on the choice of relationship contracts of parents who were unmarried at conception. The reform substantially increased the average leave payments, in particular for working mothers, and lowered alimony payments for the non-resident father. Thus the reform reduced the costs of acknowledging paternity, while it increased the economic independence of the mother. We first develop a model of the choice of relationship contracts for couples unmarried at conception in which parents derive utility from private consumption, their child quality, and--in case they get married by the time the child is born--their marriage quality. We find that relationship choices are affected by monetary incentives from the parental leave benefits reform via income and alimony effects, resulting in a shift from single motherhood to paternity acknowledgement. Using administrative birth records, we then exploit a discontinuity in the reform implementation date comparing children born shortly before and after the implementation to identify causal effects. In contrast to widespread concerns that public transfers might crowd out father involvement, we find that increasing support for mothers substantially increases paternity establishment. This overall surge was driven by a reduction in the share of births to single mothers by close to 8% rather than a reduction in shot-gun marriages.

#### Info:

Zoom Link: <https://uni-regensburg.zoom.us/j/92822525842?pwd=YTdPY2l1RHJGK2NjSitxOEpYbU5Edz09>

Meeting-ID: 928 2252 5842

Password: 581926

### IOS/UR Seminar (Prof. Frensch)

Michael Alexeev:

*Who profits from oil windfalls in Russian regions? Inequality, decentralized tax revenues, and corruption*

**Abstract:** We investigate the relationship between oil windfalls and income inequality using the 2005-2018 panel on the Russian regions. Previous literature has studied this issue in a cross-country setting and used an aggregate measure of oil rents, producing contradictory findings. We contribute to the literature by examining income inequality within Russia – one of the resource-richest and most unequal countries in the world – focusing exclusively on the oil rents that accrue to the regional governments. We first look at the 2005-2012 period when oil tax revenues were shared with the regional governments. We find that in the regions with more intense rent-seeking as measured by registered cases of bribery and embezzlement, the plausibly exogenous increase in tax revenue due to an increase in international oil prices disproportionately benefited the richest quintile of the population and increased income inequality. We also find that positive oil price shocks combined with increased rent-seeking reduced the share of labor income in the region but increased the income share from unidentified sources, which are traditionally associated with corruption. However, after the Russian government discontinued oil tax revenue sharing with regional governments, oil price shocks ceased to affect regional income inequality. Our main findings suggest that rent-seeking plays a crucial mediating role in the interaction between oil windfalls and income inequality with important implications for policies on taxing natural resources and redistribution.

#### Info:

Zoom Link: <https://ios-regensburg-de.zoom.us/j/81422605620>

Meeting ID: 814 2260 5620

**Lunch Seminar**

Helena Fornwagner:

*Gut-brain axis, microbiota, and economic behavior*

**Abstract:** For over 300 years, scientists have known that microbes live inside us. However, researchers only recently discovered that the gut microbiome is highly important because of its link to many states of human and animal health and diseases, as well as to emotions, learning, memorization of information, and social interactions. In this study, we extend the existing literature by analyzing, for the first time, the connection between human economic behavior and the gut microbiome. We present data from an innovative experiment in which we collect fecal, urine, and saliva samples of human participants and link them to several fundamental economic preferences. Our results contribute to the literature first, by investigating the relationship between the gut microbiome and economic behavior, and second, by testing if and how the gut microbiome varies for different behavioral types.

**Info:**Zoom Link: <https://uni-regensburg.zoom.us/j/92822525842?pwd=YTdPY2l1RHJGK2NjSitxOEpYbU5Edz09>

Meeting-ID: 928 2252 5842

Password: 581926

**Economic and Social History Seminar**

Tobias Jopp / Mark Spoerer / Lino Wehrheim:

*Turn, turn, turn: A Digital History of German Historiography, 1950-2019*

**Abstract:** The increasing availability of digital text collections and the corresponding establishment of methods for their computer-assisted evaluation open up completely new perspectives on historical textual sources. In this paper, we use the possibilities of text mining for the investigation of the history of German historiography. The aim of the paper is to use topic models, i.e. methods of automated content analysis, to explore publication trends within German historiography since the end of World War II and, thus, to gain data-based insights into the history of the discipline. For this purpose, we evaluate a text corpus consisting of more than 9,000 articles from eleven leading historical journals, which includes both general and specialist historical publications and thereby provides a representative picture of German historical scholarship.

**Info:**Zoom Link: <https://uni-regensburg.zoom.us/j/99496312592>

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

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](mailto:econ.news@ur.de)

**Editorial deadline for Newsletter No. 2020-27:**  
**Wednesday, December 02 – 11 am**

**FAKULTÄT FÜR  
WIRTSCHAFTSWISSENSCHAFTEN**

**INSTITUT FÜR  
VOLKSWIRTSCHAFTSLEHRE UND  
ÖKONOMETRIE**

Universitätsstraße 31 ■ 93040 Regensburg

Newsletter-Redaktion:

Telefon: +49 941 943-2710

Fax: +49 941 943-2734

E-Mail: [econ.news@ur.de](mailto:econ.news@ur.de)

Internet: <https://go.ur.de/econ-news>

Bildnachweis: [http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Regensburg\\_08\\_2006.jpg](http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Regensburg_08_2006.jpg)