

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

WHEREVER YOU ARE,
WHATEVER
YOU DO, MAY THE
SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS
BE WITH YOU



NEWSLETTER 2020-29

CALENDAR:

Departmental Seminar

Michael Pflüger (University Würzburg):
City Size, Pollution and Emission Policies

Monday, Jan 11
16:00-17:30
Zoom-meeting

IOS/UR Seminar (Prof. Frensch)

Ina Ganguli (University of Massachusetts Amherst):
Did the Soviets Solve the "Productivity Puzzle"? Gender Differences in Science

special time
Tuesday, Jan 12
15:00-16:30
Zoom-meeting

Lunch Seminar

Lars Hornuf (University Bremen):
Playing the Angel: Decomposing the Value of Early-Stage Investors

Wednesday, Jan 13
12:00-13:30
Zoom-meeting

Economic and Social History Seminar

Tobias Jopp (University Regensburg):
Did mortality from 1918 pandemic influenza spread evenly across cities in densely populated areas? Evidence from Germany

Wednesday, Jan 13
18:00-20:15
Zoom-meeting

ABSTRACTS AND FURTHER INFORMATION:

Departmental Seminar

Michael Pflüger:

City Size, Pollution and Emission Policies

Abstract: This paper develops a model with an endogenous number of cities to explore whether local governments establish the optimal city size when key activities in the city are associated with emissions that harm consumers. In contrast to extant research, our model is fully micro-founded with respect to the urban sector and the agglomeration mechanism as well as the modelling of pollution and pollution abatement. We derive two key insights. First, if the national government implements a permit system (equivalently, pollution taxes) that allow for emissions as in the first-best, cities chosen by local governments are too small. Second, if no emission scheme is implemented, or if emission policies are too lax, cities steered by local governments may become too large. The tractability of the model also allows us to uncover the determinants of optimal city sizes, emissions, emission intensities and determinants of locally chosen city sizes, as well as to address the second-best emission policy and extensions to city asymmetries, a fiscal externality, local pollution, generalized commuting costs and further pollution sources.

Info:

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

Meeting-ID: 928 2252 5842

Password: 581926

IOS/UR Seminar (Prof. Frensch)

Ina Ganguli:

Did the Soviets Solve the “Productivity Puzzle”? Gender Differences in Science

Abstract: It is well documented that women are underrepresented in science and that they tend to publish fewer scientific articles than men, commonly known as the “productivity puzzle”. We might expect these gaps to have been smaller in the Soviet Union, which had a large scientific labor force and ideology stressing gender equality in the labor market. Using a large unique dataset of over 15,000 Soviet scientists and their publications, I estimate a gender gap in publications of 24% in Russia during Soviet times, with a small deterioration to 27% after the Soviet collapse. Both estimates are larger than published estimates of the gap during these periods in the US. The gender gap in citations was even larger than the publication gap, at close to 50% in both periods. Analysis of panel data for Soviet scientists shows that the productivity gap increased in part because women experienced a greater fall in publications after the end of the USSR compared to men. I show that an important factor in the size and dynamics of the gender gap was likely gender segregation by scientific field; women were much more likely to be in the Life Sciences and Chemistry than in Physics and Mathematics, and these were the fields that had the greatest declines in productivity and from which individuals were the most likely to exit science.

Info:

Zoom Link: <https://ios-regensburg-de.zoom.us/j/83005304548>

Meeting ID: 830 0530 4548

Lunch Seminar

Lars Hornuf:

Playing the Angel: Decomposing the Value of Early-Stage Investors

Abstract: We analyzing the determinants of funding success and consequent firm performance of 2768 early stage ventures that made a business pitch during the Canadian, German, UK or US versions of the reality television show Dragons' Den. Consistent with business angel (BA) and venture capital research we find geographic and industry closeness, the existence of patents and prototypes as well as the authenticity and tonality of the entrepreneurial pitch to have a positive effect on founders getting a deal during the show. Using a relative weight analysis we evidence that the money BA provide and the screening they undertake are by themselves the most important factor regarding venture survival, subsequent propensity to generate web traffic, and sales. Moreover having a well-known and well-connected BAs as board member trumps the existence of patents and prototypes with regard to post funding venture performance. These findings have broader implications for BA finance and other nascent players in the entrepreneurial finance ecosystem.

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:

Did mortality from 1918 pandemic influenza spread evenly across cities in densely populated areas? Evidence from Germany

Abstract: This paper contributes to the debate on the course and severity of the Spanish Flu. Examined is a hitherto neglected source on the German experience, namely the administrative reports of the Allgemeiner Knappschaftsverein zu Bochum for the years 1913 to 1921. The reports offer rich information on the death and sickness spectrum by cause, social stratum, length of treatment, and location. The data enable, for example, to derive survival functions and to estimate influenza and other death rates and death rates for all municipalities in the Ruhr area where mining took place; the Reich statistics go down to the provincial level at best. One testable hypothesis is whether influenza and pneumonia death rates did actually spread evenly across municipalities in a very densely populated area.

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

This is the last issue of RegensburgEconNews in 2020, covering the week after the Christmas holidays. The issue 2021-01 will be available on January 13, 2020

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

Editorial deadline for Newsletter No. 2021-01:
Wednesday, January 13 – 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

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

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