



NEWSLETTER 2021-07

CALENDAR:

IOS/UR Seminar (Prof. Frensch)

William Pyle (Middlebury College):

Russians' "Impressionable Years": Life Experience during the Exit from Communism and Putin-Era Beliefs

Tuesday, April 13

15:00-16:30

Zoom-meeting

Economic and Social History Seminar

Sheilagh Ogilvie (University of Oxford):

Was Damar Right? Serfdom and Factor Endowments in Bohemia

Wednesday, April 14

17:00-19:15

Zoom-meeting

ABSTRACTS AND FURTHER INFORMATION:

IOS/UR Seminar (Prof. Frensch)

William Pyle:

Russians' "Impressionable Years?: Life Experience during the Exit from Communism and Putin-Era Beliefs

Abstract: This article links Russians' individual experiences during the late-Gorbachev and early-Yeltsin years to beliefs they espoused in the Putin era, over a decade later. Drawing on the 2006 wave of the Life in Transition Survey, I show that a range of attitudes—including diminished support for markets and democracy and stronger support for reducing inequality—can be explained by whether an individual suffered labor market hardships in the half decade from 1989 to 1994. Subsequent labor market disruptions, surprisingly, bear no such relationship to beliefs in 2006. Relative to the rest of the former Soviet Union, this pattern is unique. Though an explanation is difficult to pin down, one speculative hypothesis is that for Russians, individual economic hardship, in conjunction with the dissolution of the Soviet Union, may have been particularly disorienting. Life experiences during those years of instability, uncertainty, and diminished status may have left a uniquely enduring impression.

Info:

Zoom Link: <https://ios-regensburg-de.zoom.us/j/87142113247>

Economic and Social History Seminar

Sheilagh Ogilvie:

Was Domar Right? Serfdom and Factor Endowments in Bohemia

Abstract: Are institutions shaped by factor endowments? Labor-coercion institutions such as serfdom and slavery, which profoundly restricted economic growth, were ascribed by Domar to high land-labor ratios. But historical evidence appeared to refute this hypothesis. We carry out the first multivariate analysis of factor proportions and serfdom, using data for over eleven thousand serf villages in eighteenth-century Bohemia (the Czech lands). We hold constant political-economy variables by analyzing a specific serf society, and also control for village and estate characteristics that may have obscured the impact of factor endowments in previous studies. The net effect of higher land-labor ratios, we find, was to increase labor coercion. The impact intensified when landlords extracted labor in human-animal teams, and diminished as land-labor ratios rose. Outside options in the urban sector exerted no effect. Controlling for other factors, we conclude, institutions are indeed partly shaped by economic fundamentals.

Info:

Zoom Link: <https://uni-mannheim.zoom.us/j/9840371383?pwd=M0ltYlRrN1Z3ekdHeGM5anZYUT09>

TALKS AND PRESENTATIONS:

Between January 20 - 21, **Gabriel Lee** and **Jan Philip Weber** presented the paper "*On the Cross Country Private Rent Regulation Index And Its Determinants*" at Virtual Workshop on Recent Trends in Rental Market Regulation, Institut der Deutschen Wirtschaft (IW).

Veronika Püschel presented her paper "*Progressive Pensions as an Incentive for Labor Force Participation*" at the 14th RGS Doctoral Conference in Economics and at the Netspar International Pension Workshop 2021.

On 17 March, **Helena Fornwagner** presented her paper "*Ready - set - compete: Wie Wettbewerbsverhalten den Gender Pay Gap beeinflusst*" at Degginger Regensburg, the talk can be accessed online at <https://youtu.be/HYTUN2m3UKY>.

On 18 March, **Helena Fornwagner** presented her paper "*Gut-brain axis, microbiota and economic behavior*" at the Western Economic Association International (WEAI) Virtual Conference 2021.

On 25 March, **Helena Fornwagner** presented her paper "*Predictably Competitive: What Facial Attractiveness Can Tell Us About Competitive Behavior*" at the Innsbruck Winter Summit - (Un)Ethical Behavior in Markets.

NEW PUBLICATIONS:

On March 27, **Aleksandr Alekseev's** paper "*Give me a challenge or give me a raise*" was published in Springer, available online: <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s10683-021-09709-8>.

Gabriel Lee's paper "*The Prices of Residential Land in German Counties*", which is joint work with **Stefanie Braun**, will be published in *Regional Science and Urban Economics*.

Gabriel Lee's paper "*Uncertainty, Financial Development, and FDI Inflows: Global Evidence*", which is joint work with **Canh Phuc Nguyen**, will be published in *Economic Modelling*.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Helena Fornwagner (Chair for Empirical Economic Research - Prof. Dr. Lea Cassar) applied to the University of Regensburg's Foundation Lucia and Dr. Otfried Eberz. She was able to impress the foundation board positively with her proposed project. Thus, she received funding of 10,500 euros for her research in the field of gender research and competitive behavior.

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

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Wednesday, April 14 – 11 am

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