



NEWSLETTER 2021|16

CALENDAR

IOS Seminar

Karine Torosyan

(International School of Economics at Tbilisi State University)

"Assessing the Impact of Technological Change on Similar Occupations: Implications for Occupational Mobility"

Departmental Seminar

Julia Blasch (Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam)

"Energy Community Membership, Social Identity and Energy Conservation"

IOS Seminar

Theodore P. Gerber (University of Wisconsin-Madison)

"Firms, Kinship, and Economic Growth in Kyrgyzstan"

Lunch Seminar

Lea Cassar (University of Regensburg)

"Investigating the Effects of Mindful Meditation on Academic Performance"

Economic and Social History Seminar

Stefanie van de Kerkhof (Universität Mannheim)

"100 Jahre Innovationen in Industrietextilien aus Krefeld. Das Fallbeispiel Verseidag"

Thu, June 10

13:30 - 15:00

Zoom-Meeting

Mon, June 14

16:00 - 17:30

Zoom-Meeting

Tue, June 15

16:00 - 17:30

Zoom-Meeting

Wed, June 16

12:00 - 13:30

Zoom-Meeting

Wed, June 16

17:15 - 19:30

Zoom-Meeting



ABSTRACTS AND FURTHER INFORMATION

IOS Seminar

Karine Torosyan (International School of Economics at Tbilisi State University)

“Assessing the Impact of Technological Change on Similar Occupations: Implications for Occupational Mobility”

Technological change has and will continue to have pervasive impacts on the labor market. These impacts are particularly noticeable in the types of work that people do. In extreme cases, capital replaces workers and they must find new jobs, which has implications for occupational mobility. A large body of work has assessed the mobility for different types of workers and the impact of technological change on mobility. The present study builds on this body of research by examining the impact of technological change on occupations grouped by their similarity in terms of human capital requirements and work type. This is done by clustering occupations based on these characteristics, aggregating projected gains and losses in jobs within clusters of similar occupations and assessing the degree to which these changes are driven by technological factors. The results of our analysis suggest that occupational groups that combine routine service jobs and basic manual jobs characterized by low and average education requirements and low wages will be most intensively impacted by technological change. This concentration of jobs threatened by technological change within groups of similar occupations means that mobility within these groups will be very limited. Migration of workers into alternative occupational groups will imply longer adjustment periods and higher costs of mobility. The role of public policy in preparing for and facilitating this adjustment is crucial.

Info:

<https://ios-regensburg-de.zoom.us/j/88305981900>



Departmental Seminar

Julia Blasch (Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam)

“Energy Community Membership, Social Identity and Energy Conservation”

Joint Work with M. Andor, L. Götte, D. Niehues, S. Sommer, L. Tomberg

Energy communities aim to promote renewable energy as well as energy efficiency. They are social networks and in many cases entail interaction between community members, which may be conducive to creating a new social identity within their members. Prior research has stressed the importance of shared identity for progress and success in the field of renewable energy projects. Initial evidence suggests that involvement in energy communities may indeed encourage sustainable energy behaviours. Yet, none of the existing studies accounted for the self-selection of individuals into energy communities. Furthermore, an extensive literature has considered the effect of behavioural interventions on stimulating electricity conservation. While these interventions usually focus on regular customers of energy suppliers, to our best knowledge, they have not been applied in the context of clean energy communities. Energy communities allow for testing the combination of new technologies with interventions that harness the potential of a new social network. An example of such a technology is a digital portal where participants can monitor their energy consumption and interact with each other. We are interested in whether membership in an energy community can significantly decrease household electricity consumption, by establishing a new social identity that is associated with greater awareness for resource use and stronger motivation to engage in energy conservation behaviours. To this end, we conduct a field experiment among about 300 customers of the Slovenian energy provider GEN-I. At the start of the study, a virtual energy community is established, and half of the households are randomly assigned to this community. During five months, the community receives monthly newsletters with energy saving tips, testimonials, comparison reports of electricity use within and outside the community, and members have access to an interactive virtual portal. We have access to daily smart meter data from all households, as well as pre- and post-intervention survey data. The random assignment allows estimating the causal effect of community membership. Preliminary results suggest that the external assignment to an energy community did not lead to differential effects on energy consumption relative to the control group. Thus, creating an energy community does not seem to automatically induce participants to pursue the targets of the community. We also aim to test whether households in energy communities experience a sense of social identity through their community membership and whether they become more aware of their electricity consumption than households in the control group.

Info:

<https://uni-regensburg.zoom.us/j/92822525842?pwd=YTdPY2I1RHJGK2NjSitxOEYbU5Edz09>



IOS Seminar

Theodore P. Gerber (University of Wisconsin-Madison)

“Firms, Kinship, and Economic Growth in Kyrgyzstan”

The paper addresses whether kinship networks promote or impede entrepreneurship in the Kyrgyz Republic. We conducted a survey of firm managers/entrepreneurs about their business networks, resources they receive from and provide to their contacts, their firm’s performance, and the business environment they face. Our data indicate that receiving help from kin connections increases profitability, while providing help to kin decreases it. While kin-reliant firms grow slower than firms with a lower degree of kin assistance, the former grow faster than firms that do not have access to business networks. In addition, kin connections and firm performance are unrelated for firms that have adopted best business practices. Our results demonstrate that directly measuring both receipt and provision of help from/to kin helps resolve the ambiguity of findings in the broader literature regarding the net effects of kin networks on firm performance: the two forms of network use are positively correlated, yet have opposite effects.

Info:

<https://ios-regensburg-de.zoom.us/j/82170065381>

Lunch Seminar

Lea Cassar (University of Regensburg)

“Investigating the Effects of Mindful Meditation on Academic Performance”

We study the causal impact of meditation on academic performances through a randomized evaluation of a well-known 8-week mindfulness meditation course delivered to university students. As expected, the intervention improved students’ mental health (stress, anxiety, and depression), cognitive skills (focus and concentration) and non-cognitive skills (self-control, conscientiousness, and neuroticism). However, it surprisingly decreased academic performance in the short-run. A heterogeneity analysis reveals that the short-term negative effect on performance is driven by students whose mental health at baseline was relatively good, while students with worse mental health saw the largest improvements to their mental health at no cost to their performance. Furthermore, evidence from self-reported behaviors suggests that the intervention increased health-promoting behaviors, some of which may compete with studying.

Info:

<https://uni-regensburg.zoom.us/j/92822525842?pwd=YTdPY2I1RHJGK2NjSitxOEpYbU5Edz09>



Economic and Social History Seminar

Stefanie van de Kerkhof (Universität Mannheim)

“100 Jahre Innovationen in Industrietextilien aus Krefeld. Das Fallbeispiel Verseidag”

Seit 2019 forscht Stefanie van de Kerkhof im Auftrag an einer Unternehmensgeschichte der Vereinigten Seidenwebereien AG (Verseidag) bzw. der Verseidag-Indutex GmbH als Nachfolgeunternehmen. Zu Hochzeiten hatte der Konzern über 6.500 Beschäftigte an dreizehn Standorten am Niederrhein. Schwerpunktmäßig werden die Innovationen des 1920 in Krefeld von drei Familienunternehmen gegründeten Konzerns behandelt, der bei der Gründung der größte Seidenkonzern Europas und eine der größten deutschen Familienaktiengesellschaften war. Die Verseidag stellte zunächst natur- und kunstseidene Stoffe für die Bekleidungs-, Schirmstoff-, Deko- und Möbelindustrie her, daneben aber auch technische Gewebe. Solche Industrietextilien gehörten schon vor dem Ersten Weltkrieg zum Produkt-Portfolio, z. B. in Form von Kartuschbeuteln. Ab den späten 1920er Jahren wurden technische Textilien zum wichtigen Produktionszweig, der in der Gegenwart dominiert. Bekanntheit erlangte die Beteiligung an spektakulären Bauprojekten (Berliner Olympiastadion, WM-Stadien in Kapstadt, Johannesburg und Manaus, Textilakademie). Der Vortrag analysiert, wie sich der Wandel zu Industrietextilien vollzog und welche Rolle bei den Produkt- und Verbesserungsinnovationen Know-how und Unternehmenskultur spielten.

Info:

<https://uni-mannheim.zoom.us/j/9840371383?pwd=M0ltYIRrN1Z3ekdHeGMyRG05anZYUT09>



CONFERENCES, PRESENTATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Prof. Dr. Wolfgang Buchholz, Professor Emeritus at the University of Regensburg, has published an article in the prestigious Journal of Economic Literature, in which he and his co-author reflect on the increasing importance of global public goods in today's interdependent world. If you want to read more about how economic theory can inform important global issues like curbing climate change, instituting universal regulatory practices, eradicating infectious diseases, preserving world peace, discovering scientific breakthroughs, and limiting financial crises, just visit <https://www.aeaweb.org/articles?id=10.1257/jel.20191546>.

On June 28 (17:00 - 18:00), **Helena Fornwagner** will present "Auf die Plätze, fertig, los! Über Wettbewerbsverhalten aus ökonomischer Sicht" for the Regensburg Research Hour. The presentation will be held online. For more information see: <https://www.uni-regensburg.de/forschung/zentrum-nachwuchsfoerderung/kalender/regensburg-research-hour-neu/index.html>.

RegensburgEconNews

Newsletter of the Institute of Economics and Econometrics

To change your Newsletter subscription, please visit:

<https://go.ur.de/RegensburgEconNews>

or send an email to econ.news@ur.de

Editorial deadline for Newsletter No. 2021|17:

Wednesday, June 16 | 11 am

FAKULTÄT FÜR WIRTSCHAFTSWISSENSCHAFTEN

INSTITUT FÜR
VOLKSWIRTSCHAFTSLEHRE UND
ÖKONOMETRIE

Universitätsstraße 31 | 93040 Regensburg

Newsletter-Redaktion:

Email: econ.news@ur.de

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

Bildnachweis: per Email an Redaktion wenden