



NEWSLETTER 2015-19

CALENDAR:

Departmental Seminar

Ansgar Wohlschlegel (University of Portsmouth):
Reimbursement Schemes for Hospitals: Evidence from Germany

Monday, October 19
 16:30–18:00
 VG: H 26

IOS Seminar

Andrei Yakovlev (HSE Moskau):
Attitude to the national leader through the lenses of investment climate assessment: The case of Russia

Tuesday, October 20
 13:30–15:00
 ALFi 1.09 (Landshuter Str. 4)

Lunch Seminar

Benjamin Elsner (IZA, Bonn):
A Big Fish in a Small Pond: Ability Rank and Human Capital Investment

Wednesday, October 21
 12:00–13:30
 VG: 2.35

Economic and Social History Seminar

Roman Smolorz (University of Regensburg)
Der Regensburger Domchor im Nationalsozialismus und seine Finanzen

Wednesday, October 21
 17:15–19:15 (**special time!**)
 VG: 1.30

Nobel Lecture

The *Sveriges Riksbank Prize in Economic Sciences in Memory of Alfred Nobel 2015* was awarded to Angus Deaton "for his analysis of consumption, poverty, and welfare". This lecture aims at explaining the meaning of the laureate' work.
 See also: <http://www-wiwi.uni-regensburg.de/Home/index.html.de>

Thursday, October 22
 18:00–19:00
 VG: H 24

ABSTRACTS:**Departmental Seminar**

Ansgar Wohlschlegel:

Reimbursement Schemes for Hospitals: Evidence from Germany

(joint work with Eberhard Feess and Helge Mueller)

Abstract: We use a unique dataset from a German health insurer to study the effect of the introduction of a high powered incentive scheme for hospitals on cost effectiveness and quality of medical treatment. Hospitals in Germany were given a transition period of several years to complete the switch from a fee-for-service to a fixed-fee, prospective-payment system, which allows us to adopt a difference-in-differences approach. Furthermore, all hospitals had to switch eventually, which limits the potential for selection bias. Last, we can follow a patient even when she is readmitted to a different hospital, so that we can use readmission within 90 days as a measure for quality of medical treatment. While neither the average length of stay and nor average quality have changed significantly, the effect of the change in the reimbursement scheme differs along hospital and patient characteristics in interesting ways. For instance, hospitals in private ownership reduce average length of stay at the expense of some of their previous quality advantage vis-a-vis public hospitals, and older patients are released earlier under the new system at no significant loss of quality.

IOS Seminar

Andrei Yakovlev:

Attitude to the national leader through the lenses of investment climate assessment: The case of Russia

Abstract: This paper considers two issues. First, it evaluates the changes in Russia's investment climate in 2012-2014 after the announcement of an ambitious governmental program to improve the conditions for doing business. Second, because the relevant reforms were personally initiated by Vladimir Putin, we carried out a survey experiment designed to find out how references to a popular politician influence respondents' opinions about the business climate. We used the data of a large-scale survey of top managers in Russian manufacturing sector conducted in July-October of 2014. Contrary to the World Bank report, *Easy Doing Business*, our empirical data shows that there was practically no improvement in the investment climate in Russia in 2012-2014. Also contrary to the results of population surveys showing extremely high public support for Vladimir Putin after Crimea's accession to Russia, our survey experiment demonstrated that referring to the President Putin as the initiator of business climate reform improves assessments of the business climate change only slightly. However, the effect of reference to the President's initiative differs significantly for firms from different size groups – we revealed no effect of question wording in the group of small firms, much higher share of non-answers in the group of large firms and a significant increase in the share of positive assessments of business climate among mid-size firms when Vladimir Putin was mentioned.

Lunch Seminar

Benjamin Elsner:

A Big Fish in a Small Pond: Ability Rank and Human Capital Investment (joint work with Ingo Isphording)

Abstract: We study the impact of a student's ordinal rank in a high school cohort on educational attainment several years later. To identify a causal effect, we compare multiple cohorts within the same school, exploiting idiosyncratic variation in cohort composition. We find that a student's ordinal rank significantly affects educational outcomes later in life. If two students with the same ability have a different rank in their respective cohort, the higher-ranked student is significantly more likely to finish high school, attend college, and complete a 4-year college degree. These results suggest that low-ranked students under-invest in their human capital even if they have a high ability compared to most students of

the same age. Exploring potential channels, we find that students with a higher rank have higher expectations about their future career, a higher perceived intelligence, and receive more support from their teachers.

Economic and Social History Seminar

Roman Smolorz:

Der Regensburger Domchor im Nationalsozialismus und seine Finanzen

Abstract: Der Vortrag stellt das Projekt „Die Regensburger Domspatzen und ihr Leiter Theobald Schrems im Spannungsfeld zwischen Katholischer Kirche und NS- Staat“ vor. Die Geschichte des Domchors der Regensburger Domspatzen zwischen 1933 und 1945 wird regelmäßig medial aufgegriffen und diskutiert; insbesondere ein Bild ragt dabei hervor, auf dem der Chor mit Adolf Hitler auf dem Obersalzberg zu sehen ist. Dieses Bild provoziert in der Medienöffentlichkeit, zumal im Internet, viele Fragen zur Rolle des Domkapellmeisters Theobald Schrems und der des gesamten Chors im Nationalsozialismus

SAVE THE DATE:

The **7th Bavarian Micro Day** will take place at the University of Passau on Friday, Nov. 20, 2015. The call for papers is available at <https://sites.google.com/site/bavarianmicroday/>.

Next **LIE Lecture** with Andreas Roider (VWL) and Hans Rott (Philosophy): Wednesday, Dec. 2, 2015 at 18:00.

Next **roots lecture in economics** with Gerda Hasselfeldt: Thursday, Dec. 10, 2015 at 18:00. Details at <http://www.roots-lecture.de/>.

The **8th Bavarian Micro Day** will take place at the University of Augsburg on Friday, June 24, 2016.

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Wednesday, October 22 – 14 pm

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