



## NEWSLETTER 2017-13

## CALENDAR:

**PhD Seminar**

Sebastian Zelzner (Universität Regensburg)

Monday, June 19

*The Allocation of Talent to Financial Trading versus Production:*

10:00–11:00

*Welfare and Employment Effects of Trading in General Equilibrium* VG 2.31**Departmental Seminar**

Stefan Bühler (Universität St. Gallen)

Monday, June 19

*Explaining Escalating Fines and Prices: The Curse of Positive Selection*

16:30–18:00

VG H26

**Economic and Social History Seminar**

Brian A'Hearn (University of Oxford)

Wednesday, June 21

*Rethinking Age-heaping, a Cautionary Tale From Nineteenth Century Italy*

18:00–20:15

VG 1.30

**IOS Seminar**

Elena Nikolova (CELSI and IOS)

Thursday, June 22

*Communism as the Second Coming*

14:00–15:30

WiOS 109 (Landshuter Str. 4)

**ABSTRACTS:****Departmental Seminar**

Stefan Buehler

*Explaining Escalating Fines and Prices: The Curse of Positive Selection*

*(joint work with Nicolas Eschenbaum)*

---

*Abstract:* This paper studies how escalating pricing schemes emerge in a simple two-period model of behavior-based pricing that nests optimal law enforcement with uncertain detection and monopoly pricing with imperfect customer recognition as special cases. With commitment, it is optimal for the law enforcement authority (seller) not to discriminate fines (prices). Without commitment, the optimal fines (prices) for repeat offenders (consumers) escalate if and only if the fines (prices) for first-time offenders (consumers) decrease over time. Our analysis provides a novel explanation for escalating fines if offender gains are not fully credited to social welfare.

**Economic and Social History Seminar**

Brian A'Hearn

*Rethinking Age-heaping, a Cautionary Tale From Nineteenth Century Italy*

---

*Abstract:* A swelling stream of literature employs age-heaping as an indicator of human capital, more specifically of numeracy. We re-examine this connection in light of evidence drawn from nineteenth century Italy: census data, death records, and direct, qualitative evidence on age-awareness and numeracy. Though it can stand in as an acceptable proxy for literacy, our findings suggest that age-heaping is most plausibly interpreted as a broad indicator of cultural and institutional modernization rather than a measure of cognitive skills.

**IOS Seminar**

Elena Nikolova

*Communism as the Second Coming*

*Abstract:* We show that Eastern Orthodox believers have different attitudes and values compared to Catholics and Protestants using data covering more than 100 countries around the world. Those of Eastern Orthodox religion have higher respect for authority, are less likely to vote and to embrace new ideas. In addition, Orthodoxy is associated with left-leaning political preferences and stronger support for government involvement in the economy. While communist elites sought to eradicate church-going in Eastern Europe, they maintained many aspects of Orthodox ideology which were useful for the advancement of the communist doctrine. The findings are consistent with Berdyaev's (1933, 1937) hypothesis of communism as a successor of Orthodoxy.

**TALKS AND PRESENTATIONS:**

**Johannes Moser** presented his paper *Hypothetical thinking and the winner's curse: An experimental investigation* at the Young Economists' meeting in Brno, Czech Republic on June 2, and at the 8<sup>th</sup> International Conference of the French Association of Experimental Economics – ASFEE in Rennes, France on June 9.

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. 2017-14:  
Wednesday, June 21 – 11 pm

**FAKULTÄT FÜR  
WIRTSCHAFTSWISSENSCHAFTEN**

INSTITUT FÜR  
VOLKSWIRTSCHAFTSLEHRE UND  
ÖKONOMETRIE

Universitätsstraße 31 • 93040 Regensburg

Newsletter-Redaktion: Martina Kraus-Pietsch

Telefon: +49 941 943-2710

Fax: +49 941 943-2734

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

Internet: [www-economics.ur.de](http://www-economics.ur.de)

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