



## NEWSLETTER 2018-11

## CALENDAR:

**Departmental Seminar**

Michael Roos (University of Bochum):  
*Endogenous Economic Growth, Climate Change and Societal Values: A Conceptual Model*

Monday, May 14  
16:30–18:00  
VG H26

**IOS Seminar**

Michael Rindler (IOS Regensburg):  
*Endogenous language learning and international trade*

Tuesday, May 15  
13:30–15:00  
WiOS 109 (Landshuter Str. 4)

**Economic and Social History Seminar**

Mikolaj Szoltysek (Warschau):  
*The Power of the Family: Historical Family Systems and Lasting Developmental Trajectories in Europe*

Wednesday, May 16  
18:00–20:15  
VG 1.30

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

Michael Roos

*Endogenous Economic Growth, Climate Change and Societal Values: A Conceptual Model*

*Abstract:* In this paper, I propose an evolutionary model that is an alternative to conventional models of growth and the environment. Global economic growth, the evolution of the human population, CO2 emissions, and the state of the environment are endogenous. Societal values are the main driver of all economic variables. They determine the different types of investment, the level of aggregate consumption and employment. Societal values evolve over time in response to economic and environmental conditions. The model is applied to generate possible scenarios for the twenty-first century. A baseline calibration generates an average global GDP growth rate of 3.6% p.a. and a global population level of 11.2 billion people in 2100. Mean global temperature in 2100 will be 1.77°C higher than in 1995. These results are probably too optimistic. Sensitivity analyses show how these outcomes depend on various parameters. If values respond to environmental conditions only, global warming would reach 2.5°C and a lower impact of investment in carbon efficiency could lead to average temperature increase by 4.8°C. The model is a novel conceptual framework that can be extended in many dimensions.

**IOS Seminar**

Michael Rindler

*Endogenous language learning and international trade*

*Abstract:* In recent years, the role of common language for international trade relations has caught the economist's attention. This is due to the significance of language variables in the gravity model of trade. Still, the relationship between language and trade is not well understood. While a common spoken language can decrease trading costs, trade with foreigners might increase the incentives to learn their language. Ginsburgh, Melitz and Toubal (2017) made a first attempt to estimate the effect of international trade on foreign language learning in a worldwide cross-country study. I extend their work by tackling some issues that occurred in their paper. First, time-varying data on language is used to capture the dynamics of language learning. This hasn't been done so far and as learning takes time, that way, some endogeneity problems can be relaxed. Second, the study focuses on Europe. The data captures some interesting changes in language learning in Eastern Europe, mainly from Russian to English. Additionally, in a worldwide sample, there are many countries in which the linguistic fractionalization is high, such that an international trade language serves as a lingua franca within the country as well. It is easier to solve for this problem of ambiguous incentives to learn a second language with European data, where there is only one predominant national language for most countries.

## Economic and Social History Seminar

Mikolaj Szoltysek

The Power of the Family: Historical Family Systems and Lasting Developmental Trajectories in Europe

*Abstract: Recent years have witnessed a growing interest in the role of the historical family as the instigator of disparate developmental trajectories. However, more work is needed to underpin these findings within comprehensive and robust data quality frameworks. Using a novel historical database of the European family we show that countries starting out from more patriarchal family structures in the past exhibit more hierarchical gender relations, more collectivist mindsets, and lower levels of economic and human development today. Given a strong and robust correlation between familial behavior today and family patterns in the past that we unravel, we take this evidence to suggest that indeed family patterns in the past set countries on vicious-vs.-virtuous trajectories leading to the divergent developmental outcomes today.*

## TALKS AND PRESENTATION:

**Andreas Roider** presented the paper "Whistleblower Protection: Theory and Experimental Evidence" (joint with Lydia Mechtenberg and Gerd Muehlheusser) at the Karlsruhe Institute of Technology (KIT) on May 3, 2018.

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Editorial deadline for Newsletter No. 2018-12:  
Wednesday, May 16 – 11 am

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