NEWSLETTER 2026|3

CALENDAR

Economics and Sustainability Seminar Sonja Settele (Universität zu Köln) "Unemployment Narratives"	**Mon, Jan 19** 14:15 - 15:30 H 26
IOS Seminar Margarita Pavlova (CERGE-EI) "Graduates in a Cycle: The Effect of Business Cycle Trajectories on Labor Market Outcomes of College Graduates"	**Tue, Jan 20** 13:30 - 15:00 zoom
Economic and Social History Seminar Hervé Joly (Lyon) "Die Entwicklung der französischen Großunternehmen seit den 1980er Jahren: Finanzialisierung, Privatisierung, Dezentralisierung und Internationalisierung"	**Wed, Jan 21** 18:00 - 20:15 PT 1.0.6

ABSTRACTS AND FURTHER INFORMATION

Economics and Sustainability Seminar

Sonja Settele (Universität zu Köln)

"Unemployment Narratives"

We study economic narratives—causal accounts of observed events—in a high-stakes real-world context: long-term unemployment. We use open-ended questions to measure narratives about long-term unemployment in samples of Danish job seekers, firm managers, households from the general population, experts at labor market institutions and international academic experts. We document three main results. First, there is pronounced heterogeneity in narratives both within and across samples. For instance, job seekers are more likely to attribute long-term unemployment to factors outside the control of the individual and less likely to blame worker motivation than respondents in the other samples. Second, narratives strongly reflect job seekers' personal experiences during the current and previous unemployment spells. Third, narratives shape job seekers' and firm managers' quantitative beliefs, decisions and labor market outcomes as measured in survey and linked administrative data, which we demonstrate correlationally and in a field experiment. Our findings highlight the experiential origins of economic narratives and their key role in driving important economic behaviors.

Info:

in person

IOS Seminar

Margarita Pavlova (CERGE-EI)

"Graduates in a Cycle: The Effect of Business Cycle Trajectories on Labor Market Outcomes of College Graduates"

I re-evaluate the long-term effects of graduating from college during a recession by focusing on entire business cycle trajectories, as opposed to unemployment at graduation. Using CPS data from 1976-2024, I suggest that the persistent gap in earnings between those graduating during high versus low unemployment chiefly corresponds to the effects of unemployment at graduation on graduates of lower GPA, SAT scores and socio-economic background who enrolled in lower-tier colleges because unemployment was high at the time of their college enrollment. While scarring effects of graduating during a recession are large and last for over a decade for these marginal graduates, the scarring effects are smaller than previously thought and fade within three years for student cohorts enrolling in college in a low-unemployment labor market. I also show that adverse labor market conditions beyond the year of college graduation exert a stronger influence on long-term outcomes of graduates than the unemployment rate at graduation. Following unemployment trajectories and accounting for selective enrolment highlights the policy-relevant vulnerability of marginal graduates to recessions.

Info:

Zoom-Meeting:

https://ios-regensburg-de.zoom.us/j/61021148362pwd=cONn1NhSoaug22zb1KG217MbPE29iE.1

Meeting ID: 610 2114 8362

Passcode: 053339

Economic and Social History Seminar

Hervé Joly (Lyon)

"Die Entwicklung der französischen Großunternehmen seit den 1980er Jahren: Finanzialisierung, Privatisierung, Dezentralisierung und Internationalisierung"

Die Gruppe der französischen Großunternehmen war lange Zeit von einer zunehmenden Konzentration in verschiedenen Branchen geprägt, die zur Bildung von „nationalen Champions" führte, die oft unter der Kontrolle des Managements standen. Einige von ihnen wurden nach aufeinanderfolgenden Verstaatlichungswellen in staatliches Eigentum überführt. Dieser Trend kehrte sich ab Mitte der 1980er Jahre im Zuge einer zunehmenden Finanzialisierung um, mit massiven Privatisierungen, der Aufspaltung von Konglomeraten in einzelne Branchenunternehmen und zahlreiche Fusionen/ Übernahmen mit/durch ausländische Konzerne. Ein neuer Familienkapitalismus hat sich auch u.a. im Einzelhandel, im Luxussegment und in der Lebensmittelindustrie durchgesetzt, hat aber heute Schwierigkeiten, sich zu erneuern. Die Frage der Legitimität der Formen der Kapitalkontrolle ist umstritten.

Info:
in person

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