



NEWSLETTER 2026|4

CALENDAR

Economics and Sustainability Seminar

Christina Gravert (University of Copenhagen)

“Can Attention Overcome Consumer Inertia? Experimental Evidence from a Liberalized Market”

Mon, Jan 26

14:15 - 15:30

H 26

IOS Seminar

Matthias Mertens (MIT)

“Ready, Set, Unify: The Uneven Race between Trabants and BMWs”

Tue, Jan 27

13:30 - 15:00

zoom

Lunch Seminar

Alexandra Bogner (Universität Regensburg)

“How do financial markets react to central bank communication: A text analysis of ECB press statements”

Wed, Jan 28

12:00 - 13:00

H 26

Economic and Social History Seminar

Michael Rösser (Regensburg)

“Städtische Wirtschaft und das Unternehmen Messerschmitt”

Wed, Jan 28

18:00 - 20:15

PT 1.0.6



ABSTRACTS AND FURTHER INFORMATION

Economics and Sustainability Seminar

Christina Gravert (University of Copenhagen)

“Can Attention Overcome Consumer Inertia? Experimental Evidence from a Liberalized Market”

I study consumer inertia in the Danish retail electricity market, where switching can yield substantial savings and frictions are low. Using administrative smart-meter data for 200,000 randomly-sampled households, a survey of 9,047 nationally-representative consumers, and a randomized experiment, I test whether attention and reduced switching costs increase switching. Targeted savings information and brokerage services raise switching by 0.8–1.3 percentage points over three months, despite average potential savings of 140–360. Behavioral frictions, especially procrastination and distrust, drive a large gap between switching intentions and actions, suggesting that overcoming inertia may require active policies such as default enrollment into lower-cost contracts.

Info:

in person



IOS Seminar

Matthias Mertens (MIT)

“Ready, Set, Unify: The Uneven Race between Trabants and BMWs”

Even 30 years after the reunification, regions in East Germany (the former GDR) live in considerably different economic conditions, with the average GDP per capita still about 20 percent below the average level in the West German regions. In this paper, we explore the factors that impeded faster convergence despite massive support to the East with a particular focus on technological differences and firm behavior. In the immediate aftermath of the reunification, production in the former GDR exhibited a rapid catch-up with the West with a pick-up in labor productivity. But the convergence tapered off quickly thereafter, with a stark difference between East and West German firms' product qualities persisting ever since. We build a quantitative model of innovation, competition, and regional integration that can mimic these dynamics and provides a suitable setting to evaluate alternative policies that could have altered these dynamics. We show that large initial technological differences depressed Eastern firms' incentives to compete and invest in technology improvements, perpetuating initial gaps. Delaying reunification, that is, opening up to competition from the West, would not help Eastern firms build up capacity. Sustained support for RD in the East from the West could have helped shrink persistent gaps in product quality and income, although more effective alternatives appear to be subsidies to Western firms via either RD support, with knowledge spillovers lifting also Eastern technology, or direct income support to facilitate technology transfer to the East via licensing.

Info:

Zoom-Meeting:

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

Meeting ID: 610 2114 8362

Passcode: 053339



Lunch Seminar

Alexandra Bogner (Universität Regensburg)

“How do financial markets react to central bank communication: A text analysis of ECB press statements”

I analyse the influence of sentiment conveyed by ECB press statements on various financial market variables. First, I conduct a text analysis using the Loughran-McDonald Finance Dictionary to quantify central bank sentiment, ultimately constructing a variable for the ECB’s “tone”. The so-called “monetary policy statements”, delivered by the ECB President following regular Governing Council meetings, provide the textual data basis for this analysis. Next, the financial market effects caused by changes in central bank sentiment are identified within an event-study framework. For this purpose, I use high-frequency financial market data, which record price changes within a narrow time window around the ECB press conference. I find that positive changes in the ECB’s tone are associated with higher stock prices (STOXX50, SX7E), higher yields on German government bonds (with 10- and 20-year maturities), and lower yield spreads between government bonds (when comparing 10-year French and Italian bonds to a German bond of the same maturity). In addition, the results show that a positive change in tone causes an appreciation of the euro against the pound, the dollar, and the yen.

Info:

in person

Economic and Social History Seminar

Michael Rösser (Regensburg)

“Städtische Wirtschaft und das Unternehmen Messerschmitt”

Eingebettet in das größer angelegte Forschungsprojekt „Die Regensburger Stadtverwaltung in der NS-Zeit“, gibt dieser Vortrag zunächst einen Überblick über den Zuschnitt des Teilprojektes „Städtische Wirtschaft und das Unternehmen Messerschmitt“ innerhalb der Forschungslandschaft zu Stadtgeschichte(n) im NS. Darauf folgt ein Werkstattbericht über die bisher erfolgten Archivrecherchen und eine Reflexion über die weiteren Potenziale der ersten Forschungsergebnisse sowie daraus resultierende und weiter bestehende Herausforderungen. Besondere Aufmerksamkeit liegt abschließend auf einer Diskussion der konzeptionellen Ausrichtung des Forschungsprojekts, welches sich im Spannungsfeld zwischen Unternehmens-, Wirtschafts-, Sozial-, Stadt- bzw. Lokal- sowie (über-)regionaler und transnationaler Geschichtsschreibung verortet.

Info:

in person



CONFERENCES, PRESENTATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRESENTATIONS

Vanessa Dietl will give a presentation on "Spatial Interdependencies in Real Estate Markets: Urban Infrastructure Investments and Retail Network Shocks in German Cities" on Tuesday, January 27th at 9:00 in Room VG 2.35.

Leonie Müller-Judex will give a presentation on "The Spatial Economics of Real Estate: Cycle Synchronization, Infrastructure Impacts, and Pricing Mechanisms" on Tuesday, January 27th at 13:00 in Room VG 2.35.

RegensburgEconNews

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Wednesday, January 27 | 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