



NEWSLETTER 2026|9

CALENDAR

IOS Seminar

Hosny Zoabi (The New Economic School)

"Beneath the Ban of Abortion: Evidence from the USSR "

Tue, May 5

12:30 - 14:00

zoom



ABSTRACTS AND FURTHER INFORMATION

IOS Seminar

Hosny Zoabi (The New Economic School)

“Beneath the Ban of Abortion: Evidence from the USSR ”

We exploit Stalin’s abrupt 1936 nationwide abortion ban to study the dynamic effects of reproductive restrictions. Using newly digitized, year-by-year evidence from declassified Soviet archives, we document a sharp rise in births alongside increases in infant mortality and illegal abortions—consistent with substitution toward unsafe procedures. Despite this demographic expansion, regions more exposed to the ban experienced no faster industrial growth. Linking cohorts forward, children born after the ban exhibit higher crime, with no corresponding change for older, unexposed cohorts. The short-run adverse effect on infant mortality and the long-run increases in crime suggest that the ban may have eroded human capital more broadly than these outcomes alone imply. New archival panels on many other Stalin-era interventions rule out contemporaneous confounders. Restricting reproductive autonomy generates persistent spillovers: deteriorating early-life conditions, weakening cohort quality, and leaving the economic rationale for the ban unfulfilled.

Info:

Zoom-Meeting:

<https://ios-regensburg-de.zoom.us/j/68902085574?pwd=ZaptxzIAMAhcX3UuBDDJzcl6NrkVGW.1>

Meeting ID: 689 0208 5574

Passcode: 210393

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Wednesday, May 6 | 11 am

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