

NEWSLETTER 2026|15

CALENDAR

Economics and Sustainability Seminar
Melanie Krause (Universität Leipzig)

"The Path of Pollution and Destruction - Tracing Historical Drivers of Inequality in German Cities"

Mon, June 22
14:15 - 15:30
H 26

IOS Seminar
Bakhrom Mirkasimov (Westminster International University in Tashkent)

"The Political Economy of Central Asian Countries: Institutional Legacies and Market Transition"

Tue, June 23
13:30 - 15:00
109 and zoom



ABSTRACTS AND FURTHER INFORMATION

Economics and Sustainability Seminar

Melanie Krause (Universität Leipzig)

"The Path of Pollution and Destruction - Tracing Historical Drivers of Inequality in German Cities"

We examine how the interplay of two historical factors have shaped contemporary socio-economic inequality in German cities. Industrialization-era air pollution is known to influence settlement patterns via residential sorting, but the unique German case reveals how its long-run impact has been mitigated by World War II destruction and reconstruction. Using detailed historical city maps from 1880 to 1915, we construct a novel spatial dataset on industrialization-era industrial facilities and residential expansion to model historical air pollution at the 1km² scale. Combining this with data on war destruction allows us to analyze its impact on contemporary income. Our preliminary results suggest: (i) German cities display a variety of intra-urban spatial income disparities (North-South, East-West etc). (ii) A proxy of historical air pollution is a statistically significant factor in most of them, despite cross-city heterogeneity. (iii) The negative effect of historical air pollution on contemporary income has a lower magnitude in areas with more war destruction, in particular in Eastern Germany.

Info:
in person



IOS Seminar

Bakhrom Mirkasimov (Westminster International University in Tashkent)

"The Political Economy of Central Asian Countries: Institutional Legacies and Market Transition"

This paper investigates whether and how pre-Soviet institutions from the Khanate of Khiva, the Khanate of Kokand, and the Emirate of Bukhara – through Russian Imperial rule, Soviet rule, and independence – persisted and shaped economic outcomes in Central Asia, particularly in Uzbekistan today. We utilize a new subnational-level dataset for 208 districts of Uzbekistan by integrating georeferenced historical maps, digitizing Soviet-era archival volumes on regional settlement lists and territorial and population records for Bukhara, Khorezm, and Turkestan, and matching those data to contemporary socioeconomic indicators. District-level preliminary results reveal that pre-Soviet polities experienced different levels of economic development and human capital outcomes across their historical borders, which persist to this day.

Info:

Zoom-Meeting:
https://https://ios-regensburg-de.zoom.us/j/68902085574?pwd=ZaptxzIAMAhcX3UuBDDJzcl6NrkVGW.1
Meeting ID: 689 0208 5574
Passcode: 210393

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Editorial deadline for Newsletter No. 2026|16:
Wednesday, June 24 | 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
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