



NEWSLETTER 2026|20

## CALENDAR

**Departmental Seminar**

Maya Eden (University of Zurich)

"Fixed-Point Utilitarianism"

**Mon, Oct 19**

14:15 - 15:30

H 26

**IOS Seminar**Yanrong Guo (Doctoral School of Social Sciences (ARS) at the  
Uniwersytet Mikołaja Kopernika w Toruniu)"An institutional model based on the historical characteristics of  
China's labor market: hukou, social welfare and the labor law  
system"**Tue, Oct 20**

13:30 - 15:00

109 and zoom



## ABSTRACTS AND FURTHER INFORMATION

### **Departmental Seminar**

Maya Eden (University of Zurich)

“Fixed-Point Utilitarianism”

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How should policymakers make decisions that affect the population trajectory? I study the implications of the person-affecting approach to population ethics, according to which we ought to be “in favor of making people happy but neutral about making happy people” (Narveson [1973]). I formalize this approach as a decision rule that is based on the premise that, whenever possible, we ought to select an option that is optimal for the people that it brings into existence. Under plausible conditions, this approach characterizes a solution to a fixed-point problem, in which the optimal policy maximizes a population-weighted sum of per-capita utilities.

*Info:*

in person



## **IOS Seminar**

Yanrong Guo (Doctoral School of Social Sciences (ARS) at the Uniwersytet Mikołaja Kopernika w Toruniu)

"An institutional model based on the historical characteristics of China's labor market: hukou, social welfare and the labor law system"

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China's success puzzles mainstream economic theories, as it lacks fundamental elements such as a free market, explicit property rights, and well-established institutions, yet it is recognized as the "world's factory" driven by "cheap labor." In this context, the labor market serves as a crucial perspective for understanding how China has consistently utilized its factor endowments to promote export-led growth. Therefore, this research aims to explain how the evolution of China's labor market has contributed to its economic development. The methodology employs institutional change analysis, revealing that China's labor market system has been predominantly shaped by three interdependent institutions since 1979: hukou, social welfare, and labor laws. These institutions have evolved through mutually reinforcing relationships. Hukou has been closely complementary to both social welfare and labor law, while the relationship between social welfare and labor law has been reinforced through the development of contract-based employment. These institutional relationships exhibit strong path dependence and have generated self-reinforcing mechanisms that sustain institutional persistence and lock-in. Based on these historical characteristics, an institutional model can be constructed in which hukou, social welfare, and labor law form an institutional triangle, with the state playing a significant role in supporting and coordinating these elements. The model highlights the evolving functions of these institutions over time. As China's economic and institutional environment changes, their contribution to economic growth has gradually diminished, while their impact on social inequality has become more pronounced. In conclusion, the evolution of China's labor market institutions is responsible for the increasing tension between economic efficiency and social equity in contemporary China.

*Info:*

Zoom-Meeting:

<https://ios-regensburg-de.zoom.us/j/67179125119?pwd=xZPVABBwxxqRQTOrm0AoJtaZMnhWpL.1>

Meeting ID: 671 7912 5119

Passcode: 995840



## CONFERENCES, PRESENTATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

Carla Krolage and Marie-Theres Gasser (with Florian Dorn, Kevin Kloiber, Simon Krause): "Who Scores from Hosting Sports Events? Local Spending Evidence from the EURO 2024", Regional Science and Urban Economics, 122, 104274, 2027.

On Thursday, October 22nd at 18:00 an event on the "Nobelpreis 2026 für Wirtschaftswissenschaften" will take place in Room H24.

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**Editorial deadline for Newsletter No. 2026|21:**

**Wednesday, October 21 | 11 am**

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