

# Master Seminar 'Empirical Methods in Regional and International Economics'

Summer Term 2026

**Syllabus** Shaping global, regional and local patterns of trade and mobility, the dimensions of space and geography play a major role for the evolution and organization of economic activity. This seminar combines a discussion of key questions in Regional and International Economics with an introduction to major empirical approaches in this field. I will provide an introduction to each of these methods (e.g., Natural Experiments, Instrumental Variables, Synthetic Control Methods), which will be followed by student presentations that will illustrate how these methods are applied to major question in Regional and International Economics. As a group, we will then examine how the methods and approaches can be implemented in STATA. Combining economic theory with empirical methods and their implementation, the seminar may well serve as a starting point for individual research projects like, e.g., MA theses.

## Possible Topics for Presentation

- 1) Economic Convergence (Goecke & Hüther, 2016)
- 2) Transport Costs and Economic Activity (Duranton et al., 2014)
  - a) Migration,
  - b) Trade in Goods,
  - c) Core-Periphery Structure
- 3) The Costs of Remoteness (Redding & Sturm, 2008)
- 4) Identifying Agglomeration Economies (Greenstone et al., 2010)
- 5) Infrastructure and Trade (Donaldson, 2018)
- 6) Trade and Industrial Change (Dauth et al., 2014)

**Dates and Times:** The seminar will be held as a block seminar on June 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>, 2026. Exact times will be announced well ahead of the course.

**Prerequisites:** To be able to participate, students will need to have taken and successfully passed the course 'Einführung in das wissenschaftliche Arbeiten'. In addition, it is recommended, though not strictly required, that students have taken introductory courses in Econometrics, Regional Economics and/or programming with STATA.

**Language of Instruction:** English or German, depending on the audience.

**Assessment:** The seminar will be assessed by means of a seminar paper (70% of the grade), which needs to be submitted until May 31<sup>st</sup>, and a presentation that will be held in the seminar (30% of the grade).

**Instructor:** Prof. Dr. Daniel F. Heuermann (daniel.heuermann@wiwi.uni-regensburg.de)

**Registration:** Registration is possible until February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2026. Interested students need to register through FlexNow and write an email to daniel.heuermann@wiwi.uni-regensburg.de stating their name, number of semesters and matriculation number. De-registrations can be made until May 31<sup>st</sup>, 2026.

## Literatur

Dauth, W., Findeisen, S., & Suedekum, J. (2014). The Rise of the East and the Far East: German Labor Markets and Trade Integration. *Journal of the European Economic Association*, 12(6), 1643–1675.

Donaldson, D. (2018). Railroads of the Raj: Estimating the Impact of Transportation Infrastructure. *American Economic Review*, 108(4-5), 899–934.

Duranton, G., Morrow, P. M., & Turner, M. A. (2014). Roads and Trade: Evidence from the U.S. *Review of Economic Studies*, 81(2), 681–724.

Goecke, H. & Hüther, M. (2016). Regional Convergence in Europe. *Intereconomics*, 51, 165–171.

Greenstone, M., Hornbeck, R., & Moretti, E. (2010). Identifying Agglomeration Spillovers: Evidence from Winners and Losers of Large Plant Openings. *Journal of Political Economy*, 118(3), 536–598.

Redding, S. J. & Sturm, D. M. (2008). The Costs of Remoteness: Evidence from German Division and Reunification. *American Economic Review*, 98(5), 1766–97.