



NEWSLETTER 2020-15

CALENDAR:

IOS/UR Seminar (Prof. Frensch)

Andreas Backhaus (Bundesinstitut für Bevölkerungsforschung):
Fading legacies: Human capital in the aftermath of the partitions of Poland

Zoom-meeting

Tuesday, June 16
13:30-15:00

Economic and Social History Seminar

Leonardo Ridolfi (University of Siena):
Gender inequality in a preindustrial rural economy. Evidence from Southwestern France, 1660-1850

Zoom meeting

Wednesday, June 17
18:15-20:00

IOS/UR Seminar (Prof. Frensch)

Andreas Backhaus:

Fading legacies: Human capital in the aftermath of the partitions of Poland

Abstract: This paper studies the longevity of historical legacies in the context of the formation of human capital. The Partitions of Poland (1772-1918) represent a natural experiment that instilled Poland with three different legacies of education, resulting in sharp differences in human capital among the Polish population. I construct a large, unique dataset that reflects the state of schooling and human capital in the partition territories from 1911 to 1961. Using a spatial regression discontinuity design, I find that primary school enrollment differs by as much as 80 percentage points between the partitions before WWI. However, this legacy disappears within the following two decades of Polish independence, as all former partitions achieve universal enrollment. Differences in educational infrastructure and gender access to schooling simultaneously disappear after WWI. The level of literacy converges likewise across the former partitions, driven by a high intergenerational mobility in education. After WWII, the former partitions are not distinguishable from each other in terms of education anymore.

Info: For further information such as the Zoom-meeting details please visit:<https://uni-regensburg.zoom.us/j/92654178172>

Meeting 926 5417 81727 8172

Economic and Social History Seminar

Leonardo Ridolfi:

Gender inequality in a preindustrial rural economy. Evidence from Southwestern France, 1660-1850

Abstract: This study investigates gender inequality in Southwestern France, a typical pre-industrial rural economy, focusing on a set of inequality measures over almost two centuries. Three measures, encompassing various stages of human development, are considered (gender pay gap, gender height dimorphism, and gender educational gap) and several decomposition procedures are used to cast light on the various sources of gender inequality at different levels. Results suggest that wage inequality was low in relative terms, but other forms of pre-market discrimination were pervasive. Within households a central mechanism perpetuating gender inequality across generations was child-father transmission of human capital as well as male-oriented allocations of resources especially during phases of population growth and falling per capita incomes; outside the family context, the large gender disparities in the supply of primary schooling limited women's ability to acquire skills. Overall, these results show the multisided nature of gender discrimination and call for a new and more comprehensive approach to how we measure and interpret gender inequality in historical perspective.

Info: Link: <https://uni-regensburg.zoom.us/j/99496312592>The password is available at request from Sekretariat.WiSo@ur.de or Alexandra.Prem@ur.d

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