

Bachelor Seminar

The Political Economy of Development

Winter term 2020/21

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Room 125
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Introductory meeting: October 5, 2020
Seminar number in HIS-LSF: 042421

General information

The course is open to students in the FB4 interdisciplinary Bachelor programs as well as to Bachelor students in the economics program. Prior knowledge in introductory econometrics is required. Prior knowledge in Political Economy, Public Choice Theory and/or Law & Economics is recommended.

Students who have successfully applied for this seminar will receive an e-mail with information on how to sign in for the Learnweb course.

Requirements

Each seminar participant has to prepare and submit a **term paper comprising 15 pages**. Credits points are granted for **preparing a term paper, presenting the results in front of the class as well as for actively participating during the seminar**. There will be one theoretical or empirical baseline paper(s) for each topic. Students are expected to critically present and analyze the central theoretical aspects and empirical methods of their baseline papers and discuss the relevance of their contribution in the context of a somewhat broader academic literature.

The term paper is supposed to contain a cover page, a table of contents, a reference list (bibliography) and – where applicable – an appendix. The paper can be written in Word or LaTeX. For style requirements, such as margins, font size, spacing and so forth, participants should follow the guidelines for academic texts described here: <https://www.wiwi.uni-muenster.de/loep/en/study/master-courses/master-seminars-topics-public-choice> (in German).

Registration and assignment of topics

Please enroll for this course („CIW-Seminar“) by using the form provided on the CIW webpage. The enrollment deadline is **September 15, 2020**. In case of questions regarding the enrollment process, please contact Kerstin Heitmann (kerstin.heitmann@wiwi.uni-muenster.de) in the CIW secretary. If you have organizational questions, please reach out to Kim Leonie Kellermann (kim.kellermann@wiwi.uni-muenster.de).

Enrollment is limited to a maximum of **15 participants**. Once enrolled, participants can rank the topics according to their preferences on the course's Learnweb page. The ranking will be open **September 21 to October 4, 2020 (12p.m.)**. The assignment of participating students to the topics will be communicated in the **introductory virtual meeting on October 5, 2020**. Participation in the first meeting is **mandatory** to enroll for the class.

Additional registration for the seminar is required in QISPOS/FlexNow before the **early deadline** of the winter term 2020/21. Topics will be supervised by Manuel Santos Silva (ssilva@gwdg.de). Students should arrange at least one meeting to discuss the structure of the paper. The outline and structure of the paper should be sent beforehand via email to the supervisor.

The course language is English.

Important dates

Note: Rooms and dates might be subject to change.

Introductory meeting: **October 5, 2020, 9-10a.m.** (via Zoom)
Dates of seminar: **January 21, 2020, all day** (venue: tba)
January 22, 2020, all day (venue: tba)

Submission date for term papers: **January 17, 2020** (until Sun 12:00p.m. / Mon 00:00a.m.)

Seminar focus

This seminar discusses the political determinants of economic and social development. Which type of political regime fosters economic growth? How do societies develop under democratic or autocratic rule? What role do political and social institutions or the legal system play? How does political conflict impact on development? To tackle these questions, the seminar will discuss seminal articles covering a long time span of human history and several regions of the developed and developing world.

Topics

I. The deep-roots of autocracy

Bentzen, J. S., Kaarsen, N., & Wingender, A. M. (2017). Irrigation and autocracy. *Journal of the European Economic Association*, 15(1), 1-53.

II. Landed elites and human-capital accumulation

Galor, O., Moav, O., & Vollrath, D. (2009). Inequality in landownership, the emergence of human-capital promoting institutions, and the great divergence. *The Review of Economic Studies*, 76(1), 143-179.

III. Colonial institutions

Acemoglu, D., Johnson, S. & Robinson, J.A., (2001). The colonial origins of comparative development: An empirical investigation. *American Economic Review*, 91(5), 1369-1401.

IV. Institutions and factor endowment in the Americas

Sokoloff, K. L., & Engerman, S. L. (2000). Institutions, factor endowments, and paths of development in the new world. *Journal of Economic Perspectives*, 14(3), 217-232.

V. The consequences of the Atlantic Slave Trade for African development

Nunn, N. (2008). The long-term effects of Africa's slave trades. *The Quarterly Journal of Economics*, 123(1), 139-176.

VI. The scramble for Africa

Michalopoulos, S., & Papaioannou, E. (2016). The long-run effects of the scramble for Africa. *American Economic Review*, 106(7), 1802-48.

VII. The political economy of China's growth

Malesky, E., & London, J. (2014). The Political Economy of Development in China and Vietnam. *Annual Review of Political Science* 17(1), 395-419.

VIII. Government responsiveness in poor countries

Besley, T., & Burgess, R. (2002). The political economy of government responsiveness: Theory and evidence from India. *The Quarterly Journal of Economics*, 117(4), 1415-1451.

IX. Democracy and economic growth

Acemoglu, D., Naidu, S., Restrepo, P., & Robinson, J. A. (2019). Democracy does cause growth. *Journal of Political Economy*, 127(1), 47-100.

X. Corruption

Ferraz, C., & Finan, F. (2011). Electoral accountability and corruption: Evidence from the audits of local governments. *American Economic Review*, 101(4), 1274-1311.