



University of Münster  
School of Business & Economics  
The Chair of Political Economy

Bachelor seminar

# The Political Economy of Development

Winter term 2021/22

Dr. Manuel Santos Silva  
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Scharnhorststr. 100  
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Introductory meeting: October 4, 2021  
Seminar number in HIS-LSF: 046021

## Seminar focus

This seminar discusses the political determinants of economic and social development. Which types of political regimes foster 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 development? To tackle these questions, we will discuss seminal articles covering a long time span of human history and several regions of the developed and developing world.

The course language is English.

## Prerequisites

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.

## Assignments

Credit points are granted for **preparing a term paper (15 pages), presenting the results in front of the class, as well as for actively participating during the seminar**. Each student is assigned one theoretical or empirical baseline paper (see topics below). Students are then expected to critically present and analyze the central theoretical aspects and empirical methods of their baseline papers and discuss their relevance in the context of a somewhat broader academic literature.

The term paper should contain a cover page, a table of contents, the main text, a reference list (bibliography), and (where applicable) an appendix. The paper can be written in Word

or L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X. 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/sites/loep/files/leitfaden\\_wiss\\_arbeiten\\_loep\\_stand24.06.2020.pdf](https://www.wiwi.uni-muenster.de/loep/sites/loep/files/leitfaden_wiss_arbeiten_loep_stand24.06.2020.pdf) (in German).

## Application and enrollment

Please apply for this course („CIW-Seminar“) by using the form provided on the CIW webpage. The application deadline is **September 15, 2021**. In case of questions regarding the enrollment process, please contact Clementine Kessler (clementine.kessler@wiwi.uni-muenster.de) in the CIW secretary. If you have organizational questions, please reach out to Manuel Santos Silva (manuel.santos.silva@uni-muenster.de).

Students who have successfully applied for this seminar will receive an email with information on how to sign in for the Learnweb course. Enrollment is limited to a maximum of **15 participants**. Once enrolled, participants can rank the topics according to their preferences. The ranking will be open from **September 21 to October 3, 2021 (12p.m.)**. The assignment of participating students to the papers will be communicated in the **introductory meeting on October 4, 2021**. 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 2021/22. Topics will be supervised by Manuel Santos Silva. 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.

## Important dates

*Note: Rooms and dates might be subject to change. Room 101 (GraSP) is on the 1st floor of the CIW building at Scharnhorstr. 100.*

Introductory meeting: **October 4, 2021, 9:15-10:45** (venue: Room 101 in GraSP)  
Dates of seminar: **January 20, 2022, 09:00-17:00** (venue: Room 101 in GraSP)  
**January 21, 2022, 09:00-16:00** (venue: Room 101 in GraSP)

Submission date for term papers: **January 16, 2022** (until Sun 12:00p.m. / Mon 00:00a.m.)

## Topics

- I. **The origins of the state**  
de la Sierra, R. S. (2019). On the origins of the state: Stationary bandits and taxation in Eastern Congo. *Journal of Political Economy*, 128(1), 32–74.
- II. **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.
- III. **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.
- IV. **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.
- 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. **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.
- IX. **Elite capture**  
Anderson, S., Francois, P., & Kotwal, A. (2015). Clientelism in Indian villages. *American Economic Review*, 105(6), 1780–1816.
- 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.