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AWI This Week

Monday, 19. 10. 09

17.15-18.45
AWI 00.010

Departmental Seminar

Luis Miller, CESS, Oxford

"Who should be called to the lab? A comprehensive comparison of students and non-students in classic experimental games"

Wednesday, 21. 10. 09

17.15-18.45
AWI 00.010
(under the auspices of the
Excellence Initiative)

Internal Seminar

Johannes Voget

"The Determinants of Cross-Border Tax Information
Sharing"

Departmental Seminar

Luis Miller

"Who should be called to the lab? A comprehensive comparison of students and non-students in classic experimental games"

This study exploits the opening of the new experimental lab in Oxford to compare the behavior of students and non-students in a number of classic experimental games. This is the first experiment carried out in the lab and we study the first decisions subjects take. The variety of games enables us to test the robustness of differences in behavior across the two populations and investigate a number of hypotheses for these differences. We find that, across all games, students are more likely to behave as homo-economicus agents than non-students. The differences are particularly large in games involving other-regarding preferences (dictator game, trust game and public good game). Surprisingly, we find that these differences subsist even when controlling for differences in demographics, cognitive ability or risk preferences. In fact, 'being a student' is the only robust predictor of pro-social behavior. Our findings suggest that deviations from the homo-economicus equilibrium found in experiments using students are likely to provide a lower bound for deviations in the general population.

Internal Seminar

Johannes Voget

"The Determinants of Cross-Border Tax Information Sharing"

The paper studies the determinants of tax information sharing between the Dutch tax authorities and foreign tax authorities for income tax purposes. To this end, it employs data on tax information sharing on request for a sample of 81 countries covering the period 1992-2005. It is shown that the height of the domestic income tax rate, the size of the marginal cost of public funds, and the share of a country's interest-bearing deposits held abroad increase a country's willingness to engage in information sharing. The presence of automatic bank reporting, which increases the tax authority's ability to monitor the financial transactions of its taxpayers, reduces a country's incentive to engage in tax information sharing. Information sharing is predominantly reciprocal in nature.

Talks and Research Visits

On October 8, Hartmut Sangmeister visited the Universidade Federal de Integração Latino-Americana in Foz de Iguaçu, having discussions on cooperation projects.

On October 6, Hartmut Sangmeister talked on "America Latina na disputa global pela energia" at Curitiba/Brasil within the IV. Brasilianisch-Deutschen Symposiums "Erneuerbare Energien und nachhaltige Entwicklung" taking place from October 5-7, in Curitiba/Brasilien.

From September 8-11, Johanna Kühnel presented her paper "Innovation, Growth, and the Optimal Enforcement of the Rule of Law" (joint with Andreas Irmen) at the Annual Meeting of the Verein für Socialpolitik held in Magdeburg.

From August 3-7, Thomas Eife, Johanna Kühnel and Christoph Lipponer attended the course "Economic Growth" held by Philippe Aghion at the Kiel Institute for the World Economy.

New Publications

Hartmut Sangmeister/Alexa Schönstedt: "Wege und Irrwege zum Wohlstand: Theorien und Strategien wirtschaftlicher Entwicklung", Nomos Verlag 2009.


New and Leaving Staff

In October Junhong Meng joined the team of Hartmut Sangmeister (Development Policies) as a PhD student. She has just finished her master studies this spring with research focus on monetary phenomena and policies at Beijing Foreign Studies University/PRC.



Miscellaneous

The University of Heidelberg has been admitted as an Observer Organization at the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP 15) to take place in Copenhagen December 7-18. All students and faculty are invited to attend all or part of the meetings, but those interested should contact Travis Warziniack (warziniack@eco.uni-heidelberg.de) as soon as possible. Names of attending delegates are due by the end of October, and group hotel or hostel reservations need to be made through the United Nations booking office. Attendance is free but attendees should expect to pay for transportation (89? round trip via Deutsche Bahn) and lodging.



Malte Faber was invited by "Angewandte Gesellschaft für Philosophie" in Baden-Baden to give a lecture on "On the roots of the environmental crisis: the Faustian dynamics" on September 24, 2009.

**Editorial deadline for issue 23/2009 of the newsletter:
Wednesday, October 21, 2009, 12 o'clock
newsletter@awi.uni-heidelberg.de**

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please contact the address above.