



ALFRED-WEBER-INSTITUT FÜR WIRTSCHAFTSWISSENSCHAFTEN
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Upcoming Seminars

Monday, 21.11.2016

Departmental Seminar

17.15-18.15
AWI 00.010

Marcus Pivato, THEMA, Université de Cergy-Pontoise
(invited by Jürgen Eichberger)

"Subjective expected utility representations for Savage preferences on topological spaces"

Wednesday, 23.11.2016

Internal Seminar

12.15-13.15
AWI 00.010

Lorenz Hartmann

"Optimism and Pessimism in Games with players that have a-
Maxmin Expected Utility Preferences"

Thursday, 24.11.2016

Lecture Series: The End of Globalization?

18.00-19.30
Campus Bergheim
Hörsaal

Anne Peters, Max-Planck-Institut für ausländisches
öffentliches Recht und Völkerrecht

"Das Völkerrecht im neuen Millennium: Krise oder
Konsolidierung (...unter Präsident Trump)?"

Departmental Seminar

Marcus Pivato

"Subjective expected utility representations for Savage preferences on topological spaces"*

In many decisions under uncertainty, technological constraints restrict both the acts which an agent can perform and the events which she can observe. To address such situations, we assume that the set of possible states of the world and the set of possible outcomes each have a topological structure. The only feasible acts are continuous functions from states to outcomes, and the only observable events are regular open subsets. We axiomatically characterize a Subjective Expected Utility (SEU) representation of ex ante preferences in this environment. Our SEU representation involves a continuous utility function on the outcome space (unique up to positive affine transformations), and a unique probability measure on the Boolean algebra of regular open subsets of the state space. With additional topological hypotheses, we obtain a unique Borel or Radon probability measure, along with an auxiliary apparatus called a *liminal structure*, which describes the agent's informational constraints, and generalizes the classical SEU representation.

*with Vassili Vergopoulos

Internal Seminar

Lorenz Hartmann

"Optimism and Pessimism in Games with players that have α -Maxmin Expected Utility Preferences"

Eichberger & Kelsey (2014) introduce a model for games which allows both optimistic and pessimistic attitudes towards ambiguity and apply this model to a class of games that allows an ordering over strategies for every player (games with positive externalities and increasing differences). In addition to equilibrium existence they provide comparative statics results in both perceived ambiguity and ambiguity attitude. In my work I mimic the ideas of Eichberger & Kelsey (2014) but generalize the beliefs of the player about the strategic choice of the other players to a richer class of preferences: α -Maxmin expected utility preferences. I show that equilibrium existence (suitably adapted) still holds, but that the main comparative statics result of Eichberger & Kelsey does not: It is possible that more optimism leads to lower equilibria, which is ruled out in the original model. I characterize both the games and the beliefs for which this comparative statics result holds in my approach and for which it fails.

Lecture Series: The End of Globalization?

Anne Peters

"Das Völkerrecht im neuen Millennium: Krise oder Konsolidierung (...unter Präsident Trump)?"

Während der neuen US-Präsident ankündigt, Freihandelsabkommen, das Pariser Klimaabkommen und den NATO-Vertrag zu ignorieren oder zu beenden, vertiefen Russland und China eine Völkerrechtspartnerschaft, in der Menschenrechte nicht mehr vorkommen. Der Brexit, der Rückzug afrikanischer Staaten vom internationalen Strafgerichtshof, die Kündigungen des Investitionsschutzsystems durch lateinamerikanische Staaten und die Ablehnung neuer regionaler Wirtschaftsabkommen von Seiten der Bürger Europas manifestieren eine weit verbreitete Skepsis gegenüber dem Völkerrecht. Tatsächlich erweist sich in Zeiten der Wirtschafts- und Finanzkrisen, der ideellen Verunsicherung und tiefgreifender sozialer Spannungen das Völkerrecht vielfach als machtlos: Die Annexion der Krim durch Russland und Verbrechen gegen die Menschlichkeit in Syrien werden hingenommen, das Flüchtlings- und Migrationsregime geht an der Realität vorbei. Und dort, wo das Völkerrecht greift, haben Überinterventionismus, double standards und einseitige Liberalisierung Legitimitätsprobleme sichtbar gemacht, die von populistischen und korrupten Regierungen ausgenutzt werden. Der Vortrag geht der Frage nach, ob und wie das Völkerrecht und seine Institutionen konsolidiert werden können.

Talks and Research Visits

At the *International Political Economy Society (IPES) conference 2016*, Duke University, Durham, North Carolina, November 11-12, **Axel Dreher** participated with **Vera Eichenauer**, who presented the paper "The Causal Effects of Trade, Aid and Investment on China's Image Abroad" (joint work with Lutz Brückner and Andreas Fuchs) and **Katharina Richert**, who presented her paper "The International Finance Corporation's hidden lending motives" (joint work with Axel Dreher and Nicola Limodio).

Hans Diefenbacher gave a lecture on "The Great Transformation – zur Aktualität und Bedeutung der Theorie von Karl Polanyi", at the conference "Ökonomie und Ethik", at the Zentrum für Studium und Lehre of the Hochschule Heilbronn, November 10.

Lennart Kaplan presented his paper "Recklessly Ricardian? On how aid works, but not as you might hope" during the International Development Economics Conference, Clermont-Ferrand, November 4.

Christian Conrad presented the paper "The Uncertainty-Adjusted Consensus Forecast" in the cege-Forschungskolloquium, Georg-August-Universität Göttingen, November 2.

Visitors

Adam Dominiak from Virginia Polytechnic Institute & State University is visiting Jürgen Eichberger for joint research (room 01.026) from November 17-26.

New Publications

Jonas Hedlund: "Bayesian persuasion by a privately informed sender" has been accepted for publication in *Journal of Economic Theory*.

New Working Papers

You can find the recent working papers from the AWI Discussion Paper Series No. 620-622 [here](#).

**Editorial deadline for issue 26/2016 of the newsletter:
Wednesday, November 23, 2016, 12 p.m.
newsletter@awi.uni-heidelberg.de**

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please contact the address above.