



ALFRED-WEBER-INSTITUT FÜR WIRTSCHAFTSWISSENSCHAFTEN
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Upcoming Seminars

Monday, 29.5.2017

Heidelberg

17.15-18.15

AWI 00.010

Till Bärnighausen, University of Heidelberg

(invited by Stefan Klonner)

"Value of life in Africa: Evidence from a large population-based survey in Tanzania"

Tuesday, 30.5.2017

Economics and Politics Seminar

13.45-14.45

AWI 01.030

Henning Mühlen, Universität Hohenheim

"Structural Transformation and its Relevance for Economic Growth in sub-Saharan Africa"

Wednesday, 31.5.2017

Internal Seminar

12.15-13.15

AWI 02.036

Marco Lambrecht

"Measuring skill and chance in games"

Departmental Seminar

Till Bärnighausen

"Value of life in Africa: Evidence from a large population-based survey in Tanzania"

Despite its importance for the allocation of health resources, empirical data on the value of a statistical life year (VSLY) is lacking for sub-Saharan Africa. In the absence of empirically established VSLY, researchers typically use thresholds of one or three times per-capita GDP per life year saved for cost-effective and highly cost-effective interventions, respectively (WHO- CHOICE 2013). These thresholds, however, are based upon evidence from high- and middle-income countries and may not be relevant guidelines for cost-effectiveness in sub-Saharan Africa. Additionally, it is unclear how well mean individual economic productivity proxies value of statistical life year, since life has value apart from market production value. We randomly select 4,000 individuals age 18 and older from the Ukonga Health and Demographic Surveillance System in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania to complete a survey consisting of basic demographic information as well as contingent valuation willingness-to-pay (WTP) elicitation questions. From these surveys we compute VSLY and local income estimates in order to compare VSLY to both Tanzanian per-Capita GDP and local annual income. Using our elicited VSLY through a contingent valuation survey we are able to statistically reject the WHO-CHOICE threshold of 1 and 3 times per capita GDP as an appropriate estimate for VSLY in our sample. We find that a higher threshold would be more appropriate as a cost-effectiveness threshold than per capita GDP. Given the sensitivity of VSLY to population characteristics, we find that locally derived empirical estimates have the potential to substantially improve resource allocation decisions for interventions that affect mortality at all levels of administration.

Economics and Politics Seminar

Henning Mühlen

"Structural Transformation and its Relevance for Economic Growth in sub-Saharan Africa"

In view of the remarkable growth performance of sub-Saharan African countries since the mid-1990s, we investigate empirically the drivers of economic growth in the region between 1980 and 2014. In particular, we highlight the role of structural transformation considering that the relatively low productive agricultural sector is still of great importance in terms of employment. Applying two separate analytical frameworks, we find that structural transformation contributes significantly to economic growth.

Internal Seminar

Marco Lambrecht

"Measuring skill and chance in games"*

Online gaming on the internet has become a multi-billion dollar industry. The question whether a game predominantly depends on skill or chance has important legal and regulatory implications. In many jurisdictions games of chance are prohibited or tightly regulated. Classifying mixed games, i.e. games that incorporate both strategic actions of players as well as the use of random devices, is a much-debated issue. A generally accepted criterion has not been developed yet. We pursue an empirical approach by capturing the heterogeneity of playing strengths of competitors and define the "best-fit" ELO algorithm to measure this heterogeneity. Subsequently, we apply the method to large datasets and propose a scale of skill and chance based on Chess data. This scale includes a reference point for 50% skill. Measuring two-player competitions of various games (e.g. Poker "Sit and Go", Backgammon and Tetris) and positioning those on the scale, it turns out that the most common Poker modifications are ranked below the threshold of 50% skill. Therefore, Poker seems to be a game that predominantly depends on chance.

*with Peter Dürsch and Jörg Oechssler

New Publications

Magdalena Buckert, Jörg Oechssler and Christiane Schwieren: "Imitation under stress", has been published on *Journal of Economic Behavior & Organization*.

New and Leaving Staff

Karlijn van den Broek joins the Multi-Tip research group as a postdoc in cognitive psychology. She holds a PhD in environmental and cognitive psychology from the university of Bath (UK), as well as an M.Sc. and B.Sc in psychology from the university of Groningen (the Netherlands). Her field of interest is environmental psychology, specifically cognitive processes (e.g. heuristics) that influence environmental behaviour (energy saving behaviour, pollution etc.).



**Editorial deadline for issue 13/2017 of the newsletter:
Wednesday, May 31, 2017, 12 p.m.
newsletter@awi.uni-heidelberg.de**

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please contact the address above.