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Upcoming Seminars

Tuesday, 30.1.2018 Economics and Politics Seminar

13.45-14.45

AWI 01.030

Susan Steiner, Leibniz University of Hannover

"Using smartphone technology for research among refugees -
Evidence from Germany"

Wednesday, 31.1.2018 Internal Seminar

12.15-13.15

AWI 00.010

Anna Merkel

"Legislative bargaining with costly communication"

Economics and Politics Seminar

Susan Steiner

"Using smartphone technology for research among refugees - Evidence from Germany"*

Researchers attempting to survey refugee populations face a number of methodological issues, particularly in using traditional methods (e.g., face-to-face) to collect longitudinal data, due to the transient nature of these populations. In light of these difficulties, we study coverage, participation rates, and the influence of monetary incentives when using smartphone technology for data collection among refugees. As part of the Life and Integration in Germany (LIG) study, we conducted personal interviews with 529 refugees and collected consent to contact respondents again via email or WhatsApp message for further data collection on their smartphones. The participating refugees were then invited to four follow-up web surveys over the course of three months. In addition, we asked them to download a research app to their smartphones for passive mobile data collection, i.e., the automatic collection of behavioral data from smartphones. We find coverage error based on age and region of origin when comparing smartphone owners to non-owners and based on asylum status when comparing Android smartphone owners to others. In terms of response to the mobile web surveys, we find declining response rates across our four surveys, with education, reading proficiency, and Internet use on the smartphone predicting nonresponse. While only around seven percent of the eligible refugees participated in the passive mobile data collection, we found only little nonresponse bias. The offer of a monetary incentive for participation in the passive data collection strongly increases participation though the treatment effect is statistically insignificant in our study.

*with Florian Keusch, Christoph Sajons & Mariel M. Leonard)

Internal Seminar

Anna Merkel

"Legislative bargaining with costly communication"*

An important argument in favor of less-than-unanimity decision rules is that such rules may be associated with less delay in decision-making as compared to unanimity rule. We investigate this argument by conducting experiments in which subjects make a decision concerning the division of a fixed surplus. In addition to making and voting on formal proposals, subjects can communicate verbally. Communication is costly in that each second that subjects communicate is associated with an increased probability that the game is terminated without agreement. In the latter case, subjects are paid predetermined disagreement values. We vary the decision rule (majority or unanimity) as well as the constellation of disagreement values (symmetric, asymmetric). We find that unanimity rule is associated with significantly longer delays due to communication than majority rule. Specifically, this difference is observed in situations with asymmetric disagreement values, but no difference is observed in the symmetric situations.

* with Christoph Vanberg

Talks and Research Visits

Andreas Fuchs presented the paper "Aid, China, and Growth: Evidence from a New Global Development Finance Dataset " (joint work with Axel Dreher, Bradley Parks, Austin M. Strange and Michael J. Tierney) at the Sheffield Workshop in Political Economy, University of Sheffield, UK, January 19.

Christian Conrad presented the paper "Two are better than one: volatility forecasting using multiplicative component GARCH models" (joint with Onno Kleen) in the Seminar on Statistics and Econometrics, Kiel University, January 18.

Liza Charroin presented her paper "Homophily, peer effects and dishonesty" (with Bernard Fortin and Marie Claire Villeval) at Aix Marseille School of Economics, Marseille, January 18.

Axel Dreher presented the paper "The Political Economy of International Finance Corporation Lending" (joint work with Katharina Richert) at Deakin University's Research Seminar, Melbourne, January 16.

Andreas Fuchs gave an invited talk on "Chinesische Entwicklungshilfe und ihre Konsequenzen" at the Graduiertenseminar in Volkswirtschaftslehre der Universität Bayreuth in Lichtenfels, January 12.

New Publications

Trautmann, S.T., and G. van de Kuilen (2018): "Higher Order Risk Attitudes: A Review of Experimental Evidence", *European Economic Review*, forthcoming.

New Working Papers

Tobias Pfrommer: "A Model of Solar Radiation Management Liability", AWI Discussion Paper Series No.644, Heidelberg University, January 2018.

New and Leaving Staff

Valentin Lang will leave the AWI to accept a postdoc position at the University of Zurich as of February 1. He will join Stefanie Walter's Chair of International Relations and Political Economy.

Editorial deadline for issue 05/2018 of the newsletter:

Wednesday, January 31, 2018, 12 p.m.

newsletter@awi.uni-heidelberg.de

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