Upcoming Seminars

Monday, 15.11.2021   **Departmental Seminar**

13.30-14.30   Christopher Kilby, Villanova University (host Axel Dreher)

AWI 00.010   "Global Public Goods and International Organizations:
                          World Bank COVID-19 Lending as a Case Study"

Wednesday, 17.11.2021   **Internal Seminar**

12.15-13.15   Thomas Eife

AWI 00.010   "Converting Probabilistic Survey Responses into
                          Continuous Probability Distributions"

Abstracts

Departmental Seminar

Christopher Kilby

"Global Public Goods and International Organizations: World Bank COVID-19 Lending
  as a Case Study"

One important function of international organizations is to provide global public goods. However, a substantial literature finds that the effectiveness of international organizations is undermined by geopolitics, i.e., outcomes where the institution caters to the narrow interests of dominant member countries, effectively providing private goods rather than public goods. This paper examines lending decisions by the World Bank in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, exploring whether these decisions are shielded from U.S. influence. Analysis of the data through the end of 2020 finds no evidence of bias in COVID lending decisions despite continued bias for other lending decisions (Kilby and McWhirter, forthcoming). This paper extends this analysis through October 26, 2021, to see whether COVID lending remains insulated from geopolitics or whether the extended nature of the pandemic has allowed a resumption of business as usual.

Internal Seminar

Thomas Eife

"Converting Probabilistic Survey Responses into Continuous Probability Distributions"

The standard approach to convert probabilistic survey responses into continuous probability distribution requires that the question intervals are equally wide. Almost all recently established household surveys have intervals of varying widths. Applying the standard approach to surveys with varying widths gives unreasonable and misleading results. This note shows how the standard approach needs to be adjusted to account for intervals of unequal width.

Talks and Research Visits

Manoel Bittencourt, University of Pretoria, is staying at the AWI for research visit (invited by Axel Dreher) from November 13 to December 14 (room 01.025).

Andis Sofianos presented the paper "Does mining fuel bubbles? An experimental study on cryptocurrency markets" (with Marco Lambrecht and Yilong Xu) in the departmental seminar at the Bar-Ilan University, October 25 (online), and the paper "Intelligence Disclosure and Cooperation in Repeated Interactions" (with Marco Lambrecht, Eugenio Proto and Aldo Rustichini) in the departmental seminar at Durham University, November 3.