



ALFRED-WEBER-INSTITUT FÜR WIRTSCHAFTSWISSENSCHAFTEN
BERGHEIMER STR. 58, 69115 HEIDELBERG, TEL. 06221/54-2941
REDAKTION: FREYA SCHADT, EMAIL: NEWSLETTER@AWI.UNI-HEIDELBERG.DE

Upcoming Seminars

Monday, 20.5.2019

Departmental Seminar

13.30-14.30

AWI 00.010

Nikolaus Wolf, Humboldt University Berlin

(invited by Christina Gathmann)

"On the Origins of National Identity"

Wednesday, 22.5.2019

Departmental Seminar II

12.15-13.15

AWI 00.010

Chris Roth, briq Institut, Bonn

(invited by Dietmar Fehr)

"Do People Value More Informative News?"

Departmental Seminar

Nikolaus Wolf

"On the Origins of National Identity"*

The formation of "national identities", where individuals increasingly valued their membership in a national community, was a phenomenon of the 19th century. We explore the origins of a „national identity" in Germany and its spread to become a mass-phenomenon before the First World War. We construct a new panel data-set on more than 1.2 million first names that parents gave their children to elicit changes in identities between 1800 and 1900. Our main finding is that the collapse of Napoleon in 1813 triggered a wave of enthusiasm for Germany, with lasting effects. We exploit within family variation to estimate how the events of 1813/14 changed the identity of parents as reflected in their decisions about given names. We find that parents in cities that became part of Prussia and parents with a middle class background started to give their children names of German(ic) origin. Further, we can show that first names had remarkable predictive power for behaviour in terms of marriages and active involvement during both, the German-French War in 1870/71 and the First World War. We conclude that the popular rise against Napoleon under Prussian leadership was crucial for the formation of a German national identity.

* with Felix Kersting

Departmental Seminar II

Chris Roth

"Do People Value More Informative News?"

We examine how perceptions of media bias affect demand for news. Drawing on large representative samples of the US population with approximately 10,000 respondents, we measure and experimentally manipulate people's beliefs about the extent to which newspapers strategically suppress information. Inconsistent with the "more-information-is-better principle," we find that people who learn that a newspaper is less likely to strategically suppress information have a *lower* demand for news from this newspaper. The results from the main experiment and a series of follow-up experiments demonstrate that people have a demand for biased news, consistent with a desire to confirm pre-existing beliefs. We discuss the implications of our findings for the regulation of media markets.

Talks and Research Visits

Stefan Trautmann presented the paper "Implementing (un)fair procedures?" at the Center of Social and Economic Behavior of the *University of Cologne*, May 14.

Christoph Vanberg gave a talk on "Logrolling affects the relative performance of alternative q-majority rules" at the *Cyprus Meeting on Behaviors and Algorithms*, University of Nikosia, Cyprus, May 10.

Yilong Xu was invited to give a talk titled "Nonspeculative Bubbles Revisited: Speculation Does Matter" in the business economics (finance group) at the *Erasmus University of Rotterdam*, May 9.

New Publications

Axel Dreher's articles "The Political Economy of International Finance Corporation Lending" (with Valentin Lang and Katharina Richert) and "African Leaders and the Geography of China's Foreign Assistance" (with Andreas Fuchs, Roland Hodler, Bradley C. Parks, Paul A. Raschky, Michael J. Tierney) have been accepted for publication in the *Journal of Development Economics*.

Miscellaneous

Baby Boom: Congratulations to Sarah Langlotz on the birth of a baby boy, born on April 20, and to Christian Conrad, who became father of a son on May 9.

**Editorial deadline for issue 12/2019 of the newsletter:
Wednesday, May 22, 2019, 12 p.m.
newsletter@awi.uni-heidelberg.de**

If you would like to receive the newsletter by email,
please contact the address above.