



Upcoming Seminars

Monday, 20.1.2020

Departmental Seminar

13.30-14.30

AWI 00.010

Stefan Napel, Bayreuth University

(invited by Christoph Vanberg)

"Influence in Weighted Committees"

Wednesday, 22.1.2020

Internal Seminar

12.15-13.15

AWI 00.010

Matthias Quinckardt

"The effect of political alignment and connectedness on
intergovernmental transfers"

Abstracts

Departmental Seminar

Stefan Napel

"Influence in Weighted Committees"*

Committee decisions on more than two alternatives much depend on the adopted voting rule. So does the distribution of power among committee members. We quantify how different aggregation methods such as pairwise majority votes, plurality with runoff, or Borda rule map asymmetric numbers of seats, shares, voting weights, etc. to influence on outcomes when preferences vary. A generalization of the Penrose-Banzhaf index is proposed and applied to the IMF Executive Board's election of a Managing Director. It extends voting power analysis from binary votes to collective decisions on multiple options.

*with Sascha Kurz and Alexander Mayer

Internal Seminar

Matthias Quinckardt

"The effect of political alignment and connectedness on intergovernmental transfers"

This project investigates the effect of party connections on fiscal policies. Using a novel data set for mayoral elections in eight German states and a regression discontinuity design, I find that alignment between the party of the mayor and the state government increases state infrastructure transfers to a municipality by 30% per year before local elections. The alignment effect is contingent on local politicians' electoral incentives and disappears when the incumbent is not running for reelection. In addition to partisanship, information transmission from the state to local governments helps to explain the positive effect of alignment. Overall, the results show that party connections affect the allocation of intergovernmental transfers even in institutional settings that are not prone to pork-barrel politics."

Talks and Research Visits

Timo Goeschl presented the paper "The Nature of Experience" (joint with F. Diekert and C. König-Kersting) at the Departmental Seminar, Dept. of Economics, University of Gothenburg, January 14.

Zeno Enders presented the paper "Firm expectations and economic activity" at the University of Hamburg, January 7.

New Publications

Goeschl, T., J. Lohse, S. Kettner, C. Schwieren: "How much can we learn about voluntary climate action from behavior in public goods games?" has been accepted for publication in *Ecological Economics*.

New and Leaving Staff

Sarah Langlotz will leave the AWI end of January to start a new position as an Assistant Professor (Akademische Rätin) at the Chair of Development Economics (Prof. Dr. Andreas Fuchs) at the University of Göttingen.

Miscellaneous

The paper "Long- and Short-Term Cryptocurrency Volatility Components: A GARCH-MIDAS Analysis" by Christian Conrad, Anessa Custovic and Eric Ghysels has won the first prize in the 2019 *JRFM* (Journal of Risk and Financial Management) Best Paper Award. *find the paper [here](#)*

Editorial deadline for issue 04/2020 of the newsletter:
Wednesday, January 22, 2020, 12 p.m.
newsletter@awi.uni-heidelberg.de