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Upcoming Seminars

Monday, 19.10.15

Departmental Seminar I

17.15-18.15

AWI 00.010

Simon Weidenholzer, University of Essex

(invited by Jörg Oechssler)

"Collective Punishment and Commitment in Public Goods Games with Imperfect Monitoring"

Tuesday, 20.10.15

Economics & Politics Seminar

13.45-14.45

AWI **01.030**

Augustin Casas, Universidad Carlos III de Madrid

"Who monitors the monitors? Effect of party observers on electoral outcomes"

Wednesday, 21.10.15

Departmental Seminar II

12.15-13.15

AWI 00.010

Jose Apesteguia, Universitat Pompeu Fabra, Barcelona

(invited by Jörg Oechssler)

"Monotone Stochastic Choice Models: The Case of Risk and Time Preferences"

Departmental Seminar

Simon Weidenholzer

"Collective Punishment and Commitment in Public Goods Games with Imperfect Monitoring"

We experimentally explore the role of punishment in sustaining cooperation in public goods games when there is uncertainty about the contributions of individuals. In particular, we consider sanctioning mechanisms that allow agents to commit to punishment and punishment mechanisms where all group members will be collectively punished. While the ability to commit results in higher contribution levels for standard and collective punishment only sanctioning mechanisms that are collective increase social welfare.

Economics & Politics Seminar

Agustin Casas

"Who monitors the monitors? Effect of party observers on electoral outcomes"

We investigate whether monitoring by individuals with preferences over the outcome of the supervised task interferes with the task's process: Does the monitors' presence bias the results in favor of their own preferences? To do so, we construct a novel dataset from the raw voting records of the 2011 national elections in Argentina. We exploit a natural experiment to show that electoral observers with partisan preferences cause a 1.7% to 7% increase in the vote count for the observers' preferred party. This bias, which appears under various electoral rules, occurs mainly in municipalities with lower civic capital (Guiso et al. (2011)) and weakens the accountability role played by elections.

(joint with Guillermo Díaz and Andre Trindade)

Departmental Seminar

Jose Apesteguia

"Monotone Stochastic Choice Models: The Case of Risk and Time Preferences"

Suppose that, when evaluating two alternatives x and y by means of a parametric utility function, low values of the parameter indicate a preference for x and high values indicate a preference for y . We say that a stochastic choice model is monotone whenever the probability of choosing x is decreasing in the preference parameter. We show that the standard use of random utility models in the context of risk and time preferences may sharply violate this monotonicity property, and argue that their use in preference estimation may be problematic. We then establish that the alternative random parameter models, in contrast, are always monotone. We show in an empirical application that standard risk-aversion assessments may be severely mis-estimated.

(joint with Miguel A. Ballester)

Talks and Research Visits

Christina Gathmann chaired the Mentoring Workshop for Women "Fit for Science" at the Annual Conference of the Verein für Socialpolitik in Münster, September 6-9. She also moderated the Keynote Lecture of Pascaline Dupas (Stanford University) on "Design and Effectiveness of Public Health Subsidies in Developing Countries".

At the Annual Conference of the Verein für Socialpolitik in Münster, September 7-9, **Anna Busse** presented her paper "The Effects of Free Childcare on Labor Supply and Children" (joint with Christina Gathmann) and **Nicolas Keller** presented his paper "Access to Citizenship and the Social Integration of Immigrants" (joint with Christina Gathmann and Ole Monscheuer).

Ole Monscheuer presented his paper "Access to Citizenship and the Social Integration of Immigrants" (joint with Christina Gathmann and Nicolas Keller) at the DFG SPP 1764 Summer School: Labor Market Research – Theory, Empirical Methods, Interdisciplinary Perspectives, Mannheim, September 14-18, and at the 30th Annual Congress of the European Economic Association, Mannheim, August 24-27.

Miscellaneous

Stefan Trautmann has been appointed associate editor of the Journal of Economic Psychology as of November 2015. From 2011 to 2015 he was a member of the editorial board of the journal.

Christina Gathmann was elected member of the Executive Council (Erweiterter Vorstand) of the Verein für Socialpolitik.

New and Leaving Staff

Franziska Katharina Lembcke joined the AWI as a doctoral student at the Chair of Labor Economics and Political Economy under the supervision of Christina Gathmann. She holds an MSc in Economics from Heidelberg University and a BSc in Economics from the University of Mannheim. During her studies she visited the University of Essex and gained work experience at the Centre for European Economic Research (ZEW) and the economic research department of the KfW. She previously worked as research associate at the MZES, University of Mannheim. Her research interests are in the field of applied microeconometrics and policy evaluation with a focus on labor economics.



Andreas Lindenblatt left the AWI in September after successfully having defended his doctoral thesis in July (doctorate supervisor: Switgart Feuerstein).

**Editorial deadline for issue 22/2015 of the newsletter:
Wednesday, October 21, 2015, 12 p.m.
newsletter@awi.uni-heidelberg.de**

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