



ALFRED-WEBER-INSTITUT FÜR WIRTSCHAFTSWISSENSCHAFTEN  
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## Upcoming Seminars

**Tuesday, 19.4.2016**

**Economics and Politics Seminar**

13.45-14.45

Nils B. Weidmann (Universität Konstanz)

AWI 01.030

"Digital Discrimination: Political Exclusion Deprives Ethnic Groups of Internet Access"

## Abstracts

### Economics and Politics Seminar

Nils B. Weidmann

"Digital Discrimination: Political Exclusion Deprives Ethnic Groups of Internet Access"

The global expansion of the Internet is frequently associated with improved government transparency, political rights and democracy. However, this assumption depends on marginalized groups getting access in the first place. In this paper, we document a strong and persistent political bias in the allocation of Internet coverage across ethnic groups worldwide. Relying on new measurements of Internet penetration through network measurements, we show that politically excluded ethnic groups suffer from significantly lower Internet penetration rates as compared to those in power, an effect that cannot be explained by economic or geographic factors. Our findings underline one of the central impediments to "liberation technology", which is that governments still play a key role in the allocation and control of the Internet, and can, intentionally or not, sabotage its liberating effects.

## Talks and Research Visits

**Anna Merkel** has presented the paper "Fast and Fair – An experimental comparison of two hypotheses" (joint with Johannes Lohse) at the 7th Thurgau Experimental Economics Meeting in Kreuzlingen, April 8.

**Zeno Enders** presented the paper "Global Banking, Trade, and the International Transmission of the Great Recession" at the research meeting "New Methods for Macroeconomic Modelling, Model Comparison and Policy Analysis" and participated in the ensuing "The ECB and its Watchers" conference. Frankfurt/Main, April 5-7.

**Valentin Lang** presented his paper "Undermining Democracy? The Causal Effect of IMF Programs on Inequality" at the Centre for the Studies of African Economies (CSAE) Conference at the University of Oxford, UK, on March 22, 2016 and at the Annual Meeting of the European Public Choice Society (EPCS) at the University of Freiburg, Germany, on April 2, 2016.

**Axel Dreher** presented his paper "Presidential Address: The Political Economy of Foreign Aid", at the European Public Choice Society (EPCS), March 30.

**Katharina Richert** presented her paper "Do Development Minister Characteristics Affect Aid Giving?" at the CSAE Conference 2016: Economic Development in Africa Centre for the Study of African Economies, Oxford, March 20-23.

**Matthias Hartmann** presented the paper "When does information on forecast uncertainty improve the performance of the consensus forecast?" (joint with Christian Conrad) in the *Research Seminar in Mathematical Econometrics, Stochastics and Finance* at the University of Mannheim on March 15, and the paper "Inflation uncertainty, disagreement and monetary policy: Evidence from the ECB Survey of Professional Forecasters" (joint with Alexander Glas) at the *Symposium of the Society for Nonlinear Dynamics and Econometrics* in Tuscaloosa, Alabama, March 10-11.

**Zeno Enders** has discussed a paper by Almut Balleer on the 5th DFG SPP Workshop "Financial Market Imperfections and Macroeconomic Performance", Cologne, March 9-10.

**Stefan Trautmann** presented the paper "Understanding Bank-Run Contagion" at the European Commission JRC Ispra, March 2, and at the Luxemburg School of Finance, March 8. He presented the papers "Risk, Time Pressure, & Selection Effects" at the University Paris Sorbonne, February 12, and "Climate Policy Commitment Devices" at the ZEW Environmental Econ Brownbag seminar, February 16.

**Sven Kunze** presented his paper "The Effect of Tropical Cyclones on Economic Sectors Worldwide - A Panel Data Analysis using Geodata", at the AURÖ Young Researcher Workshop on Environmental and Resource Economics, UFZ Leipzig, February 16-17.

**Axel Dreher** presented his paper "Aid on Demand: African Leaders and the Geography of China's Foreign Assistance" at the, National University of Singapore, March 24, at the University of Melbourne, March 16, at the Deakin University, March 9, and at the University of Geneva, February 24.

**Jonas Dovern** presented his paper "How Well Anchored are Long-run Inflation Expectations in the Euro Area?" at the Quantitativ Ökonomisches Colloquium of the Freie Universität Berlin on February 11.

On the 1st "Workshop on Experimental Economics for the Environment" held in Osnabrück, January 28-29, the following research was presented: **Johannes Diederich** "Nudge yourself: Endogenous defaults and the provision of public goods", **Hannes Lohse** "Self-control in a dynamic common pool resource dilemma"; **Israel Waichman** "Communication and leadership in avoiding catastrophic climate change".

## New Publications

Timo Goeschl and Johannes Jarke: "Second and third party punishment under costly monitoring", *Journal of Economic Psychology*, Vol. 54, June 2016, 124-133.

Jürgen Eichberger and Dmitri Vinogradov: "Efficiency of Lowest-Unmatched Price Auctions", *Economics Letters*, forthcoming.

Johannes Diederich, Timo Goeschl, and Israel Waichman: "Group size and the (in)efficiency of pure public good provision", *European Economic Review*, forthcoming.

Binzel, Christine, and Jean-Paul Carvalho. "Education, Social Mobility, and Religious Movements: The Islamic Revival in Egypt." *The Economic Journal*, forthcoming.

Dolls, Mathias, Clemens Fuest, Friedrich Heinemann und Andreas Peichl: "Reconciling Insurance with Market Discipline: A Blueprint for a European Fiscal Union", *CESifo Economic Studies*, forthcoming.

Asatryan, Zareh, Thushyanthan Baskaran, Theodoris Grigoriadis und Friedrich Heinemann: "Direct Democracy and Local Public Finances under Cooperative Federalism", *Scandinavian Journal of Economics*, Forthcoming.

Fuest, Clemens, Friedrich Heinemann und Christoph Schröder (2016), A Viable Insolvency Procedure for Sovereigns in the Euro Area, *Journal of Common Market Studies* 54 (2), 301-317.

## New Working Papers

Please find new [AWI Discussion Papers No 607-613](#) from February till April 2016 at the AWI Homepage/Research.

Heinemann, Friedrich, Marc-Daniel Moessinger und Mustafa Yeter (2016), Do Fiscal Rules Constrain Fiscal Policy? A Meta-Regression-Analysis, ZEW Discussion Paper No.16-027, Mannheim.

Berger, Melissa und Friedrich Heinemann (2016), Why and How There Should Be More Europe in Asylum Policies, ZEW policy brief Nr. 16-01, Mannheim.

## Miscellaneous

On April 12, the [9<sup>th</sup> HeiKaMaX Workshop](#) took place at the Alfred-Weber-Institut. The workshop was organized by Jörg Oechssler. HeiKaMaX is a biannual one-day workshop that brings together experimental economists from the region (Heidelberg, Mannheim, Karlsruhe and others).

Stefan Trautmann has been appointed member of the [Rubicon Committee](#) of the Dutch Science Foundation NWO as of April 2016.

Between February and July 2016, Matthias Hartmann serves as acting chair of statistics at the University of Mannheim.

Axel Dreher stayed for research at Deakin University, March 4-23.

Jochen Laps, Ph. D. student of Clive Bell, former Head of the Department of Development Economics, has successfully defended his doctoral thesis on "Essays on Demography-driven Inequality and the Long-run Welfare Consequences of Government Intervention", February 4, 2016.

## New and Leaving Staff

**Boris Wiesenfarth** left the AWI in mid-April after successfully defending his doctoral thesis "Ambiguity and Economic Models", March 7 (supervisor: Jürgen Eichberger).

**Alexander Karpov** left the AWI in March to continue his career at the Higher School of Economics (Moscow, Russia). He had joined the AWI for one year as a postdoc research fellow at the Chair of Economic Theory I, Jürgen Eichberger.

**Felix Emanuel Link** (AWI room 00.013) joined the AWI as a Ph.D. candidate in the Working Group International Economics under the supervision of Prof. Dr. Switgard Feuerstein. He holds a M.A. in International Economics from the University of Goettingen and spent study visits in Shanghai and Beijing. His fields of interest are international macroeconomics and the Chinese economy.



**Christopher Zuber** (AWI room 00.023) joined the AWI as a Ph.D. under the supervision of JProf Dr. Jonas Dovern. He holds a M.Sc. in Economics from the University of Bonn and completed his undergraduate studies in Economics at the University of Mannheim. His fields of interest are international macroeconomics, forecasts and expectations.



**Editorial deadline for issue 6/2016 of the newsletter:  
Wednesday, April 20, 2016, 12 p.m.  
[newsletter@awi.uni-heidelberg.de](mailto:newsletter@awi.uni-heidelberg.de)**

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please contact the address above.