



## Internal Seminars

**TIME:**

Wednesday, **December 9**, 12.15-13.15 h

**PLACE:**

Virtual seminar room

**Johannes Matzat**

"Immigration, Political Ideologies and the Polarization of American Politics"\*

We study the extent to which migrant inflows to the United States affect the political polarization of campaign donors and the ideology of politicians campaigning for the House of Representatives. Implementing various polarization measures based on ideology data derived from 16 million campaign finance contributors, our results show that migrant inflows causally increase the polarization of both campaign donations and leading political candidates. Our estimates hold over the medium-run, although the effects decline over time, suggesting an underlying process of acceptance. These effects are exacerbated if counties host migrants from more distant cultures (in accordance with contact or realistic group threat theory), or if incoming migrants are similarly educated (in accordance with realistic group threat theory). Our main results hold when we focus on refugees as opposed to all immigrants on aggregate.

\*with Axel Dreher, Sarah Langlotz, Anna Maria Mayda and Christopher Parsons

**TIME:**

Wednesday, **December 16**, 12.15-13.15 h

**PLACE:**

Virtual seminar room

**Martin Vollmann**

"Misperceiving Economic Success: Experimental Evidence on Meritocratic Beliefs and Inequality Acceptance"\*

Most people tend to equate success with merit, a tendency that is particularly pronounced among conservatives. However, in practice it is exceedingly difficult to discern the relative impact of luck and effort to economic success. Based on a large-scale online study that samples the general US population, we investigate whether individuals misperceive the importance of luck for success, and how this mediates their meritocratic beliefs and acceptance of inequality. We randomly assign participants in pairs to compete in an easy or hard work assignment. The tasks are structured such that working on the easy work assignment almost certainly results in better performance and economic success. We show that economically successful participants overweight the role of effort in their success, perceiving high income as more deserved than unsuccessful participants. Subsequently, they demand less redistributive taxation, and they also show little interest in receiving information about the true determinants of their success. These general findings hold true regardless of political orientation. Successful liberals are as meritocratic as conservatives are, sharing the same beliefs in deservingness and preferences for low redistributive taxes.

\*with Dietmar Fehr

## Talks and Research Visits

**Andis Sofianos** presented the following papers virtually: "Does mining fuel bubbles? An experimental study on cryptocurrency markets" (with Marco Lambrecht and Yilong Xu), University of Birmingham, November 24, and "Reverse Bayesianism: Revising Beliefs in Light of Unforeseen Events" (with Christoph K. Becker, Tigran Melkonyan, Eugenio Proto and Stefan T. Trautmann), University of Sussex, November 16.

## New Publications

Zeno Enders and Hendrik Hakenes: "Market Depth, Leverage, and Speculative Bubbles" was accepted for publication in the *Journal of the European Economic Association*.

Editorial deadline for issue 1/2021 of the newsletter:  
Wednesday, January 7, 2021.  
[newsletter@awi.uni-heidelberg.de](mailto:newsletter@awi.uni-heidelberg.de)