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AWI This Week

Wednesday, 2. 11. 11 **Departmental Seminar**

17.15-18.45

Luís Aguiar-Conraria, Universidade de Minho

AWI 00.010

"Referendum design, quorum rules and turnout"

Abstract

Departmental Seminar

Luís Aguiar-Conraria, Universidade de Minho

"Referendum design, quorum rules and turnout"*

In this article, we focus on the consequences of quorum requirements for turnout in referendums. We use a rational choice, decision theoretic voting model to demonstrate that participation quorums change the incentives some electors face, inducing those who oppose changes in the status quo and expect to be in the minority to abstain. As a result, paradoxically, participation quorums decrease electoral participation. We test our model's predictions using data for all referendums held in current European Union countries from 1970 until 2007, and show that the existence of a participation quorums increases abstention by more than ten percentage points.

*with Pedro C. Magalhães

Talks and Research Visits

Krishna Chaitanya Vadlamannati gave a talk on "Maoist Conflict and Developmental Challenges Confronting India", organized by Zentrum für Entwicklungsforschung (ZEF), Center for Development Research, University of Bonn, Germany, October 21. Furthermore he gave a talk on "Enter the Dragon: Impact of Chinese FDI on Human Rights in Developing Countries", organized by Deutsches Institut für Entwicklungspolitik, German Development Institute (DIE), Bonn, Germany, October 20.

Thomas Eife presented his paper "Optimal Price Setting During a Currency Changeover: Theory and Evidence from French restaurants" (joint with Nicoletta Berardi and Erwan Gautier) at the Banque de France Seminar in Paris, September 22.

Visitors

Luís Aguiar-Conraria, Universidade de Minho, stays at the AWI (room 01.012a) for doing research with Christoph Vanberg, October 31 till November 4.

New Publications

Bram Driesen: "Proportional concessions and the leximin solution", in *Economics Letters*, forthcoming.

**Editorial deadline for issue 25/2011 of the newsletter:
Wednesday, November 2, 2011, 12 o'clock
newsletter@awi.uni-heidelberg.de**

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please contact the address above.