



Upcoming Seminars

Wednesday, 26.5.2021

Internal Seminar

13.30-14.30
Virtual seminar room

Rajesh Ramachandran and Andis Sofianos
"Affirmative Action, Discriminatory Beliefs and Backlash:
Lab-in-the-field experiment in Delhi colleges"

Abstracts

Internal Seminar

Rajesh Ramachandran and Andis Sofianos

"Affirmative Action, Discriminatory Beliefs and Backlash: Lab-in-the-field experiment in Delhi colleges"

Affirmative action policies to give preferential treatment to subaltern groups in society are widespread around the world. India has one of the most expansive affirmative action programs in the world today. The program's central component is the reservation of 22.5 percent of seats in higher education for the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, the most marginalised caste groups in the country. The intense competition for seats in higher education has led to widespread claims that affirmative action leads to the selection of "low quality" candidates and the opposition for the policy is framed principally on efficiency grounds. Do individuals oppose affirmative action as it presumably leads to admitting "low quality" candidates, or does it mask underlying animosity against marginalised groups? Do individuals consider that the historically accumulated disadvantage for groups should be relevant in the design of public policy? We design a lab-in-the-field experiment to uncover whether the limited support is because of genuinely disliking the premise of such policies, that is, its negative effects on efficiency, or whether it is due to individuals masking their discriminatory beliefs when rejecting such policies. Our study also helps shed light on the design of affirmative action programs that might potentially minimise backlash in society.

Virtual Talks

Joerg Oechssler presented "The Conditional Contribution Mechanism" (joint paper with Andreas Reischmann and Andis Sofianos) at the online meeting of the "Theoretische Ausschuss" of the VfSP on May 7-8, 2021.

New Publications

Timo Dimitriadis and Roxana Halbleib: "Realized Quantiles" (2021+), *Journal of Business & Economic Statistics*, forthcoming. ([Working Paper Version](#))

Miscellaneous

Andis Sofianos with his co-authors have published a summary of their forthcoming article "Intelligence, Errors and Cooperation in Repeated Interactions" in Review of Economic Studies in the [VoxEU portal](#).

The Diskussionspapier "Grundlagen sozial-ökologischer Transformationen: Gesellschaftsvertrag, Global Governance und die Bedeutung der Zeit. Eine konstruktive Kritik des WBGU-Gutachtens *Welt im Wandel – Gesellschaftsvertrag für eine Große Transformation*" as ZEW Discussion Paper / / NO. 21 - 034 | 03 / 2021, March 2021 is now also available in English as ZEW Discussion Paper [No. 21-043](#)

Editorial deadline for issue 11/2021 of the newsletter:
Wednesday, 2.6., 2021, 12 p.m.
newsletter@awi.uni-heidelberg.de