



Heidelberg, April 20, 2020

Summer Term 2020
Research Seminar Development Economics (Master)

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Participants will write and present an empirical seminar paper on a research question in development economics. The topic can be chosen based on personal interest. Examples are given below; please contact the supervisor that your own interests are most closely aligned to based on these topics. The paper is then presented in the seminar, followed by group discussion.

First Meeting: Canceled. Please contact potential supervisors directly via email (see list below).

Seminar: Friday, July 17, 2020, 9am – 6pm
Room: tba

Saturday, July 18, 2020, 10am – 6pm
Room: tba

Registration deadline: Friday, May 15 (per email at johannes.matzat@uni-goettingen.de)

Deadline for paper submissions: Friday, July 10, 2020, 23:59h

Please send an electronic version of your seminar paper (in pdf) to johannes.matzat@uni-goettingen.de.

If you fail to meet this deadline, you fail the course.

Should your paper not be graded as at least "sufficient" (grade 4.0), you will not be able to attend the seminar.

Grading will be based on: Your seminar paper (60 percent)
Your presentation (15 minutes, 30 percent)
Your participation during discussions (10 percent)

(You will only be graded when present during all presentations.)

Language: Papers have to be written in English.
Seminar meetings and all presentations will take place in English.

Guideline for Seminar Papers

Editing

You may use any word processing software that you feel comfortable with. Preferentially make use of LaTeX in case you decide to use a lot of formulas in your paper. Papers have to be submitted by Email in PDF format.

Style

- Font Size: 12 pt
- Line Spread: 1.5pt
- Alignment: justified
- border: 2.5cm

Length

The seminar papers should not exceed 12 pages excluding references, tables and title page.

Organization

- Cover (Include name, student number, title)
- Table of Contents: Number headings in the table of contents and the text identically.
- Table of Figures: List all figures (if any) with number and heading.
- List of Tables: List all tables with number and heading.
- (Table of Symbols: List all symbols and variables (if any) with their definitions.)
- Content: The introduction leads to and defines the subject, the body deals with the subject and the summary sums up the results in a critical manner. Number content, table of contents, table of figures, the list of tables, and the table of symbols. Reduce the number of footnotes to a minimum. Abbreviations have to be explained. Number only important equations that you refer to. Within the text argue in economic terms and not with variables. Orthography, grammar, and style are taken into account. Refrain from excessive bulleting and numbering.
- References
- (Appendix)

Quotations, References and Plagiarism

Quotations: use Harvard style, i.e. quote within the text and not in footnotes (e.g., as has been shown by Sturm (2006)...).

References: all studies that you have quoted in the text have to appear in the reference list. Anything that you have only read, but that is not quoted in the text, must NOT appear in the list of references. There are no restrictions on the reference style. However, consistency is required.

Plagiarism: any text parts (of more than two words) or ideas that are not strictly your own have to be marked. That means that the text has to be phrased in a way that makes unambiguously clear which parts are your own thoughts and which part repeats ideas from other persons. Failure to do so will result in the rejection of your paper, i.e., you fail the course, and possible further disciplinary measures by the Ruprecht Karl University of Heidelberg. Don't even think about copy/pasting your paper from the internet. Each paper will be tested in that respect.

Finding Literature

The references that you get from us are only a starting point (and we will not provide these articles). You are supposed to do your own literature research. The first step in the search for relevant literature is to check the reference lists of the literature that we gave you. Good sources for economic literature, among others, are:

- <http://ideas.repec.org>
- <http://www.jstor.org>
- Business Source Premier and EconLit (via the university library website)
- <http://www.nber.org>
- <http://www.cepr.org>

A rule of thumb is that the list of references should have about as many entries as there are pages in the seminar paper, e.g., 20 pages, 15-25 references. Be prepared to read about the double amount of papers that finally make it into the list of references. Wikipedia is not a scientific source.

Deadlines

Make sure that you hand in your paper *exactly* on time. If you miss the deadline, the rules are strict and you will not pass the course.

Interaction with your supervisor

It is recommended that you discuss with your supervisor (at least once, but better regularly) in order to discuss the progress of your paper. The first contact should happen within about two weeks after you started working on the paper (during the shutdown, these contacts will be on skype or similar software). Supervisors are:

- Zain Chaudhry (zain.chaudhry@awi.uni-heidelberg.de)
- John Cruzatti C. (john.cruzatti@awi.uni-heidelberg.de)
- Sven Kunze (sven.kunze@awi.uni-heidelberg.de)
- Johannes Matzat (johannes.matzat@uni-goettingen.de)
- Lukas Wellner (lukas.wellner@uni-goettingen.de)

Suggestions for topics by supervisor

Topic	Supervisor
Geographic determinants of Development	John Cruzatti C.
Local inequality and Trade Agreements	John Cruzatti C.
What is the impact of legal systems on development and growth?	Zain Chaudhry
What are the electoral consequences of foreign aid on the recipient country?	Zain Chaudhry
How do states establish their authority and legitimacy in ungoverned areas?	Zain Chaudhry
What explains productivity differentials between developing countries?	Zain Chaudhry
Measuring development outcomes from space	Johannes Matzat
Development and politics in India	Johannes Matzat
Aid Effectiveness and World Bank lending	Lukas Wellner
The role of staff in IMF lending decisions	Lukas Wellner
The long term consequences of WWI casualties	Lukas Wellner
Public-private-partnerships as instrument of development finance	Lukas Wellner
Climate Disasters and Economic Development	Sven Kunze