

Seminar Economic Policy:

Topics in Political Economy and Applied Microeconomics

This seminar covers various topics in political economy and applied microeconomics. Students get in touch with up-to-date research in these fields and learn how to deal with high-quality contributions to the respective literatures.

Please note that students can only participate if they have successfully completed the module *Introduction to Econometrics* (or an equivalent module).

The seminar has two consecutive parts. **In the first part, students write a thesis (about 15 pages)** under the guidance of their advisor. The thesis covers one of the seminar topics and analyzes in depth one recent contribution to the literature. While writing their thesis, participating students are expected to search for additional literature and work independently on their topic. Advisors provide close guidance during this process. **The second part consists of a blocked seminar on January 22, 2026 where the participating students present their theses.** Before preparing their presentations, supervisors will provide students with detailed feedback on their thesis.

To express your interest, please submit the registration form to celina.hoegn@fau.de before October 5, 2025. Please note that the maximum number of participants is 6 students. The deadline for submitting the seminar theses is January 6, 2026. **We will have a short introduction over Zoom on October 13, 2025, at 3pm**

List of Topics

1. International Differences in Preferences for Redistribution

How much inequality is acceptable? People tend to give very different answers to this important question. We want to understand if there are systematic cross-country differences in how people think about inequality and redistribution.

– Literature: Almas, I., Cappelen, A., Tungodden, B. (2020): Cutthroat Capitalism versus Cuddly Socialism: Are Americans More Meritocratic and Efficiency-Seeking than Scandinavians? *Journal of Political Economy* 128, 1553-88.

2. Does Diversity Matter for Health?

People often interact with others when making important choices. For instance, patients interact with doctors when seeking advice in terms of health. We want to understand if characteristics like race play a role in these situations. If yes, why is this?

– Literature: Alsan, M., Garrick, O., Graziani, G. (2019): Does Diversity Matter for Health? Experimental Evidence from Oakland. *American Economic Review* 109, 4071-4111.

3. Long-Term Effects of Career Guidance

In this study, a program is implemented to increase college enrollment and other educational outcomes by offering career guidance and financial aid. Do counseling and financial incentives improve students' decision-making about post-secondary education? Do effects last long-term?

– Literature: Renée, L. (2025). The Long-Term Effects of Career Guidance in High School and Student Financial Aid: Evidence from a Randomized Experiment. *American Economic Journal: Applied Economics* 17(2), 165-183.

4. Grit in Education

Grit has been shown to be highly predictive of academic achievement. But can students learn to have more grit? If so, what are the implications for their educational outcomes?

– Literature: Alan, S., Boneva, T., & Ertac, S. (2019). Ever Failed, Try Again, Succeed Better: Results from a Randomized Educational Intervention on Grit. *Quarterly Journal of Economics* 134(3), 1121-1162.

5. Violence Against Women at Work

Workplace violence is a well-documented phenomenon, yet evidence on its economic consequences for victims, perpetrators, and firms remains limited. What role do power differences play, particularly between male and female colleagues? Can management mitigate these negative effects? If so, how – and what types of management are most effective in doing so?

– Literature: Adams-Prassl, A., Huttunen, K., Nix, E., & Zhang, N. (2024). Violence Against Women at Work. *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, 139(2), 937-991.

6. Exposure and Attitudes about Gender

Can gender stereotypes be changed when males are exposed to females. Is there a gap in gender attitudes about mixed-gender teams, sharing housework and female leadership? What attitudes can be changed by workplace exposure? Why should we care economically about female integration in the workplace?

– Literature: Dahl, G. B., Kotsadam, A., and Rooth, D. O. (2021): Does Integration Change Gender Attitudes? The Effect of Randomly Assigning Women to Traditionally Male Teams. *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, 136, 987-1030.