

SE 040292-1

Topics in

Public Economics and Political Economy

The **purpose** of the seminar is to critically discuss recent developments in Public Economics and Political Economy in a small group of advanced students. The course educates students to become critical consumers of current research in public economics and political economy and aims at inspiring students for their own research projects.

Method: I propose readings on selected topics (see below). In the first session, I briefly present the topics and the papers. Each student selects one (or two shorter) papers on which s/he is “in charge”, and 3 papers on which s/he submits questions in writing. The discussion in class is organized as follows: The person “in charge” briefly presents the paper (max. 10’). Students who handed in comments / questions briefly explain their contribution which serves as an input to the discussion. The person in charge should be able to summarize each section/paragraph of the paper in his or her own words at any time during the discussion. All participants are expected to participate in the discussion and contribute their own thoughts and views on the papers.

Requirements: Participants need to have taken an introductory class to Public Economics, for example my lecture “Grundzüge der Finanzwissenschaft”. Students with comparable backgrounds can also be admitted (provide handout and grade of classes taken elsewhere).

Participation in the first class is compulsory. You cannot participate in this course if you do not attend the first session (7.10.)

Successful completion of this course earns students **4 ECTS** credits.

Grading:

- a) Grading for the person "in charge" has two components. 1) Presentation of the paper (20%). Hand in your slides 24h before your seminar presentation. 2) Performance in navigating the group through the paper and ability to answer questions of fellow students (and the instructor) (20% of final grade).
- b) Students are requested to read all papers and to actively participate in discussion (20%). As grading is based on your active participation in the course, you **must not miss more than two sessions**.
- c) Hand in questions and comments to at least 3 papers (max. 2 questions per paper). Comments should be critical and may, for example, relate to the theoretical perspective, the empirical approach of the paper, the validity of the analysis, or the interpretation of results. Provide a short explanation for why your question may be relevant or interesting (max. 1 page per question). Best 2 attempts count. Hand in your comments and questions 24h before the seminar (40%).

Times and places

Time: 09:45-11:15

Place: Seminar room 13, Oskar-Morgenstern Platz 1, second floor

date

- 7.10. Introduction, organization and selection of topics
- 14.10. paper #3
- 21.10. paper #4
- 28.10. paper #5
- 4.11. paper #6
- 11.11. paper #7
- 18.11. paper #8
- 25.11. paper #12
- 2.12. paper #13
- 9.12. paper #15
- 16.12. paper #17
- 13.1. paper #18
- 20.1. Final discussion, summary and conclusions

Readings

Readings will be provided through Moodle (they can also easily be accessed through our library services). Readings marked with an asterisk (*) are short papers. Students choosing such a paper may have to present two papers.

Inequality and Redistribution

1. Akesson, J. Hahn, R.W., Metcalfe, R.D. and Rasooly, I. (2022): Race and Redistribution in the United States: An Experimental Analysis. NBER Working Paper 30426.
2. Alesina, A., Stantcheva, S. and Teso, E. (2018): Intergenerational Mobility and Preferences for Redistribution. *American Economic Review* 108(2): 521-54.
3. 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(5): 1753-1788.
4. Blanchet, T., Chancel, L. and Gethin, A. (2022): Why Is Europe More Equal than the United States? *American Economic Journal: Applied Economics* 14(4): 480-518.
5. Halla, M. and Weber, A. (2024): Persistent Low Inequality Despite Compositional Shifts in Austria. *Fiscal Studies*, 45(3): 269-83.

6. Marino, M. and Iacono, R., Mollerstrom, J. (2024): (Mis-)Perceptions, Information, and Political Polarization: A Survey and A Systematic Literature Review. *European Journal of Political Economy* 85: 102578.

Taxation

7. Fuest, C., Peichl, A. and Siegloch, S. (2018): Do Higher Corporate Taxes Reduce Wages? Micro Evidence From Germany. *American Economic Review* 108(2): 393-418.
8. Chodorow-Reich, G., Zidar, O. and Zwick, E. (2024): Lessons from the Biggest Business Tax Cut in US History. *Journal of Economic Perspectives* 38(3): 61-88.
9. Lichter, A., Löffler, M. Isphording, I.E., Nguyen, T., Poege, F. and Siegloch, S. (2025): Profit Taxation, R&D Spending, and Innovation. *American Economic Journal: Economic Policy* 17 (1): 432-63.
10. * Güçeri, I. and Slemrod, J. (2023): Taxing the Rich (more). *Oxford Review of Economic Policy* 39: 399-405.
11. * Scheuer, F. (2020): Taxing the Superrich. UBS Center Public Paper #9.
12. Scheuer, F. and Slemrod, J. (2021): Taxing Our Wealth. *Journal of Economic Perspectives* 35(1): 207-30.

Climate policy

13. Dechezleprêtre, A., Fabre, A., Kruse, T., Planterose, B., Sanchez Chico, A., and Stantcheva, S. (2025): Fighting Climate Change: International Attitudes toward Climate Policies. *American Economic Review* 115(4): 1258-1300.
14. * Woerner, A., Imai, T., Pace, D.D. et al. (2024): How to increase public support for carbon pricing with revenue recycling. *Nature Sustainability* 7: 1633-41.

Migration

15. Alesina, A., and Tabellini, M. (2024): The Political Effects of Immigration: Culture or Economics? *Journal of Economic Literature* 62(1): 5-46.
16. Alesina, A., Carlana, M., La Ferrara, E. and Pinotti, P. (2024): Revealing Stereotypes: Evidence from Immigrants in Schools. *American Economic Review* 114 (7): 1916-48.
17. Boustan, L. plus 38 co-authors (2025): Intergenerational mobility of Immigrants in 15 Destination Countries. NBER WP No. 33558.
18. Christl, M., Bélanger, A., Conte, A., Mazza, J. and Narazani, E. (2022): Projecting the Fiscal Impact of Immigration in the European Union. *Fiscal Studies* 43: 365-385.
19. Colas, M. and Sachs, D. (2024): The Indirect Fiscal Benefits of Low-Skilled Immigration. *American Economic Journal: Economic Policy* 16(2): 515-50.