



## NEWSLETTER 2021-04

## CALENDAR:

**IOS/UR Seminar (Prof. Frensch)**

Florian Freund (Thünen-Institut):

*Options for reforming agricultural subsidies from health, environmental, and economic perspectives*

Tuesday, Feb 09

13:30-15:00

Zoom-meeting

**Economic and Social History Seminar**

Bernadette Mischka (University Regensburg):

*Chasing cash flows: Challenges for computer-aided indexing of the Rothschild Archive's cash books***special day, special time**

Tuesday, Feb 09

16:15-17:45

Zoom-meeting

**Lunch Seminar**

Tobias Hartl (University Regensburg):

*A fractional filter to estimate the COVID-19 contact rate*

Wednesday, Feb 10

12:00-13:30

Zoom-meeting

**ABSTRACTS AND FURTHER INFORMATION:****IOS/UR Seminar (Prof. Frensch)**

Florian Freund:

*Options for reforming agricultural subsidies from health, environmental, and economic perspectives*

*Abstract:* How can agricultural subsidies contribute to a transition towards healthy and sustainable food systems? Agricultural subsidies are an important factor for influencing food production and therefore part of a food system that is seen as neither healthy nor sustainable. Here we analyze options for reforming agricultural subsidies in line with health and environmental objectives on one side, and economic objectives on the other. Using an integrated modelling framework including economic, environmental, and health assessments, we find that several reform options could lead to reductions in greenhouse-gas emissions and improvements in population health without reductions in economic welfare. Those include a repurposing of up to half of agricultural subsidies to support the production of foods with beneficial health and environmental characteristics, including fruits, vegetables, and other horticultural products, and combining such repurposing with a more equal distribution of subsidy payments globally. The best-performing options might also be the most ambitious politically.

**Info:**Zoom Link: <https://ios-regensburg-de.zoom.us/j/81807455299>

Meeting ID: 818 0745 5299

**Economic and Social History Seminar**

Bernadette Mischka:

*Chasing cash flows: Challenges for computer-aided indexing of the Rothschild Archive's cash books***Info:**Zoom Link: <https://uni-regensburg.zoom.us/j/86948625967?pwd=ZXRHeXVjV3BVZTBheWtkemxianRvdz09>

Meeting ID: 869 4862 5967

Password: 468730

**Lunch Seminar**

Tobias Hartl (University Regensburg):

*A fractional filter to estimate the COVID-19 contact rate*

*Abstract:* To extract a time-varying signal for the COVID-19 contact rate from data on confirmed, recovered and deceased cases, an unobserved components model is set up. The contact rate is specified as a fractionally integrated process, reflecting key characteristics of aggregate individuals' social behavior such as strong persistence and gradual adjustments to new information. The integration order is estimated jointly with the other model parameters via a quasi maximum likelihood estimator that is shown to be consistent and asymptotically normal. Estimation results for several countries are well in line with the chronology of the pandemic. The new method exhibits favorable end-of-sample properties, which makes it suitable for monitoring future outbreaks and for the design of policy rules.

**Info:**

Zoom Link: <https://uni-regensburg.zoom.us/j/92822525842?pwd=YTdPY2l1RHJGK2NjSitxOEpYbU5Edz09>

Meeting-ID: 928 2252 5842

Password: 581926

We gratefully acknowledge financial support of the Departmental Seminar by the Regensburger Universitätsstiftung Hans Vielberth.

**RegensburgEconNews**

Newsletter of the Institute of Economics and Econometrics, University of Regensburg

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Editorial deadline for Newsletter No. 2021-05:  
Wednesday, February 10 – 11 am

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