

**NEWSLETTER 2019-20****CALENDAR:****IOS Seminar**

Nargiza Alimukhamedova (University of Economics in Prague):
Closing the Non-Bank Microfinance Sector: Does it Have Any Impact?

Tuesday, October 15
13:30–15:30
WiOS 109 (Landshuter Str. 4)

Economic and Social History Seminar

Mark Spoerer (University of Regensburg):
Infant Company Protection in the German Semi-Synthetic Fiber Industry: Market Power, Technology, the Nazi Government and the Post-1945 World Market

Wednesday, October 16
18:00–20:15
VG 1.30

ABSTRACTS:

IOS Seminar

Nargiza Alimukhamedova:

Closing the Non-Bank Microfinance Sector: Does it Have Any Impact?

Abstract: Most impact evaluations of microfinance institutions (MFIs) focus on measuring the impact of introducing new microfinance programs on various business and household development indicators. In contrast, empirical evidence on measuring the reverse effect, i.e. what might occur if microfinance institutions exit an economy, is scarce. The lack of evidence is mainly due to the difficulty in implementing a special experimental study and the insufficiency of reliable data for robust measures of the impact. Measuring the consequences of closing the MFI sector gives rise to an important policy agenda, as the loss due to terminating MFI activities may be devastating and may far outweigh the positive effects of introducing a new MFI. In this project, we aim to provide a novel contribution to the literature by characterizing the effect of the 2011 closure of the entire non-bank MFI sector in Uzbekistan. Specifically, in October 2011, the Central Bank of Uzbekistan revoked the license of all credit unions (121) and some of 34 microcredit organizations. We develop a multi-dimensional approach for measuring the impact of sector closure on socio-economic outcomes and various beneficiaries.

Economic and Social History Seminar

Mark Spoerer:

Infant Company Protection in the German Semi-Synthetic Fiber Industry: Market Power, Technology, the Nazi Government and the Post-1945 World Market

Abstract: In the 1920 and early 1930s, the German semi-synthetic fiber industry was dominated by a duopoly of two big players. The incumbent firms were not willing to expand their staple fiber capacities to the extent demanded by the new Nazi government. Hence the government encouraged spinning mills to found eight regional staple fiber plants and protected them against the incumbents who were technologically superior. The Nazis' infant company protection enabled the newcomers to become competitive within a few years. After the war and without any protection, these firms flourished on the world market, while the big players left the market. Hence companies founded for protectionist reasons by a non-benign government became successful firms competing on the world market.

TALKS AND PRESENTATIONS:

On September 09-13, **Nicole Lechermann** took part in a summer school: "Modern Topics in Time Series Analysis" in Bielefeld.

On September 11, **Tobias Hartl** held a conference contribution at the Annual Meeting of the German Statistical Society: "Fractional trends in unobserved components models" (joint with Rolf Tschernig and Enzo Weber).

On September 11, **Fabian Kindermann** gave a talk entitled "Learning about Housing Cost: Survey Evidence from the German House Price Boom" at the Stanford Institute for Theoretical Economics Summer Workshop.

On September 23, **Tobias Hartl** held a conference contribution at the Annual Meeting of the German Economic Society: "Fractional trends in unobserved components models" (joint with Rolf Tschernig and Enzo Weber).

On September 23-25, **Lutz Arnold** gave a talk entitled "*Socially Responsible Investment*" at the Annual Meeting of the German Economic Association in Leipzig.

On September 27, **Fabian Kindermann** spoke about "*How Households Acquire Information About House Prices*" at the Joint Conference on Household expectations conducted by the Deutsche Bundesbank and the Banque de France.

NEW PUBLICATIONS:

On September 11, **Lutz Arnold's** paper "*Refinancing MFIs with Market Power: Theory and Evidence*" which is joint work with Benedikt Booker, Gregor Dorfleitner, and Michaela Röhe, was published in the *Small Business Economics*.

In September, **Fabian Kindermann's** article "*Bargaining over Babies: Theory, Evidence, and Policy Implications*", which is joint work with Matthias Doepke from Northwestern University, was published in the *American Economic Review*.

NEW AND LEAVING STAFF



On October 1, 2019, **Vanessa Schöller** started as a new Ph.D student in the graduate program "Evidence-Based Economics" at the chair of Andreas Roider.



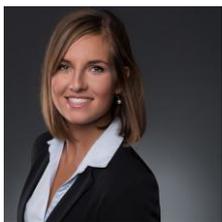
On October 1, 2019, **Matthias Scherr** started as a new Ph.D student in the graduate program "Evidence-Based Economics" at the chair of Andreas Roider.



On October 1, **Veronika Püschel** joined the team of the Chair of the Economics of the Public Sector.



On October 1, **Dr. Marina Markheim** joined the team of Fabian Kindermann.



On October 1, **Vanessa Kunzmann** joined the team of Gabriel Lee.

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



RegensburgEconNews

Newsletter of the Institute of Economics and Econometrics,
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Wednesday, October 16 – 11 am**

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