



Göttingen, February 26, 2016

Seminar Economics of the Very Long Run, Spring 2016 – Historical Roots of Economic Development–

If you need further informations regarding the seminar please contact Katharina Werner (kwerner@uni-goettingen.de).

Dates

- 25.4.2016: introductory meeting, 16:00-17:00, VG 4.102
- 2.5.2016: submission of the application form (see last page) no later than 4:00 pm in room oec 2.138 or via email (kwerner@uni-goettingen.de)
- 2.5.-15.5.2016: binding registration or cancellation via FlexNow
Attention: In case that there are more potential participants than available places we will distribute the places according to the study regulation of 2012/03/30, §8
- starting from 3.5.2016: publication of the list of participants and the list of topics
- 9.5.2016: extra class on “How to write a Seminar Paper”, 16:00–18:00, VG 3.101
- 6.6.2016: submission of seminar papers no later than 1:00 pm [A PDF version is to be sent to Katharina Werner (kwerner@uni-goettingen.de)] and of the plagiarism statement (in room oec 2.138).
- 13.6.2016, 16:00-17:00, final preparatory meeting, oec 1.164
- 24.-25.6.2013, block seminar, oec 0.211

Attendance is compulsory at all these dates.

Grading

Grading will be based upon the following:

- 1) Seminar paper (15 pages), German or English
- 2) Presentation (20 minutes), presumably English
- 3) Discussion of another topic (5 minutes)

The seminar paper accounts for 50% of the final grade. Presentation and discussion accounts for the other 50% of the final grade. Students need to pass both of these requirements in order to pass the seminar.

Please notice that due to organizational constraints, the submission deadline of the seminar paper cannot be extended by any circumstance (e.g. illness).

Required background knowledge

Necessary: BA–course “Growth and Development” or equivalent

Recommended: Econometrics

Topics

Stars (☆) indicate that there is some formal theory in the paper.

1. Dynamics and Stagnation in the Malthusian Epoch[☆]

Ashraf, Q. and Galor, O., 2011, Dynamics and Stagnation in the Malthusian Epoch. *American Economic Review* 101, 2003–2041

2. The Role of Lactase Persistence in Precolonial Development

Cook, C.J., 2014, The Role of Lactase Persistence in Precolonial Development. *Journal of Economic Growth* 19, 369–406

3. Modern gender roles and agricultural history

Hansen, C.W., Sandholt Jensen, P. and Skovsgaard, C.V., 2015, Modern gender roles and agricultural history: the Neolithic inheritance. *Journal of Economic Growth* 20, 365–404

4. Maize and Men in China

Chen, S. and Kai-sing Kung, J., 2016, Of maize and men: the effect of a New World crop on population and economic growth in China. *Journal of Economic Growth* 21, 71–99

5. Trade and Geography in the Origins and Spread of Islam

Michalopoulos, S., Naghavi, A. and Prarolo, G., 2012, Trade and Geography in the Origins and Spread of Islam. NBER Working Paper 18438

6. The Simple Economics of Easter Island[☆]

Brander, J.A. and Taylor, S.M., 1998, The Simple Economics of Easter Island: A Ricardo-Malthus Model of Renewable Resource Use. *The American Economic Review* 88(1), 119–138

7. The Rise of Europe

Acemoglu, D., Johnson, S. and Robinson, J., 2005, The Rise of Europe: Atlantic Trade, Institutional Change, and Economic Growth. *American Economic Review* 95(3), 564–579

8. Trade and Empire

Mitchener, K.J. and Weidenmier, M., 2008, Trade and Empire. *The Economic Journal* 118, 1805–1834

9. Colonialism and Modern Income

Feyrer, J. and Sacerdote, B., 2009, Colonialism and Modern Income: Islands as Natural Experiments. *Review of Economics and Statistics* 91(2), 245–262

10. Ecology, Trade, and States in Pre-Colonial Africa

Fenske, J., 2014, Ecology, Trade, and States in Pre-Colonial Africa. *Journal of the European Economic Association* 12(3), 612–640

11. The Long-Term Effects of Africa's Slave Trades

Nunn, N., 2008, The The Long-Term Effects of Africa's Slave Trades. *The Quarterly Journal of Economics* 123(1), 139–176

12. Information Technology and Economic Change: The Impact of the Printing Press

Dittmar, J., 2011, Information Technology and Economic Change: The Impact of the Printing Press. *The Quarterly Journal of Economics* 126, 1133–1172

13. Human Capital and Industrialization

Squicciarini, M.P. and Voigtländer, N., 2016, Human Capital and Industrialization: Evidence from the Age of Enlightenment. *The Quarterly Journal of Economics* (forthcoming)

14. The long-run impact of bombing Vietnam[☆]

Miguel, E. and Roland, G., 2011, The long-run impact of bombing Vietnam. *Journal of Development Economics* 96, 1–15

15. The Baby Boom and World War II[☆]

Doepke, M., Hazan, M. and Maoz, Y.D., 2015, The Baby Boom and World War II: A Macroeconomic Analysis. *Review of Economic Studies* 82, 1031–1073

The seminar paper

In your seminar paper you should present the idea and the central mechanisms of the underlying journal article in your own words. The objective of the seminar paper is that a reader unfamiliar with the original journal article is thoroughly familiarized with the topic. The seminar paper must not be longer than 15 pages (including everything, in particular, appendices and the list of references). Please use the following layout:

type size 12, spacing 2.0, indentation 2.5 cm

The seminar paper and the presentation are an optimal opportunity to familiarize yourselves with the open-source typesetting software Latex that is used nowadays in science. If you choose to prepare the paper in Word please use the typeface “Times New Roman”.

Advices for preparing a seminar paper:

- use as few footnotes as possible.
- attach a bibliography to your paper.
- do not include lists of figures, tables or abbreviations. They are not necessary in such a short seminar paper.
- properly cite all sources that you refer to.
- for references in the text follow the practice of international journals. Example: If you want to refer to an article written by Hazan in 2009 cite it in the text as [...] (Hazan, 2009). Please do not use footnotes for citation.

Students who copy-paste from any source will automatically be expelled from the course. They are graded with 5.0 and are furthermore reported to the registrar’s office (“Prüfungsamt”). Note that also one-for-one translations from another language account as plagiarism. Be aware: We are extremely ambitious to uncover any attempt of fraud and also use specialized software to detect plagiarism.

The presentation

Every participant of the seminar acts as a presenter of his own topic (20 minutes) as well as a “first participant in discussion” (around 5 minutes) of another topic of the seminar. The technical equipment for the presentation (laptop, beamer, laser-pointer) will be provided by the institute. The slides have to be sent to Katharina Werner (kwerner@uni-goettingen.de) as a PDF file (no ppt files!) until the day before the seminar.

If you are uncertain about the composition of your presentation the following advices might be helpful.

- The first 3 minutes of a presentation are crucial because you have the full attention of the audience. Use them to deliver the main point/the takeaway of your talk
- The available speaking time of 20 minutes is not sufficient to say everything that could be said about the topic.
- Practice the presentation several times beforehand to get a feeling for the time constraints etc.

You should pay attention to the following advices when preparing your slides:

- No more than 1 slide per minute
- Every slide should be equipped with a title
- The title should be self-explanatory
- No footnotes, detailed bibliographic information, long formulas, big tables or long sentences
- A slide with too little text is preferable to a slide with too much text, optimal are 20 - 40 words per slide
- A figure or a formula is worth a 1000 words
- Do not use fancy layouts (or other fancy Powerpoint options)