



Göttingen, den 20. Juli 2015

## Master-Seminar (Winter 2015/2016)

### Cities and Development

If you need further informations regarding the seminar please contact Viacheslav Yakubenko (vyakube@gwdg.de).

### Dates

- 16.11.2015, 16:00: introductory meeting, Oec 1.164.
- until 29.11.2015: submission of the applications via email (vyakube@gwdg.de)
- 30.11.–13.12.2015: binding registration or cancellation via FlexNow  
**Attention: In case that there are more potential participants than available spots we will distribute the places according to the study regulation of 2012/03/30, §8**
- starting from 30.11.2015: publication of the list of participants and the list of topics
- 10.01.2016: submission of seminar papers no later than 23:59. A PDF version is to be sent to Viacheslav Yakubenko (vyakube@gwdg.de).
- 14.01.2016, 16:00: **(upon request)** final meeting concerning the seminar, T0.132.
- 22.-23.01.2016, block seminar, room t.b.a.

Attendance is compulsory at all dates.

### Grading

Grading will be based upon the following:

- 1) Seminar paper (15 pages), English
- 2) Presentation (30 minutes), 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.

### Required background knowledge

Necessary: BA–courses in Mathematics, Econometrics, Macro- and Microeconomics; Economic Growth course is recommended.

### Application

To apply for the course, please, send an e-mail to Viacheslav Yakubenko (vyakube@gwdg.de) with the following information:

- 1) Name and Surname, Matrikelnummer.
- 2) Program and semester. Please indicate if you are on exchange or not.
- 3) Grades for Macro & Micro courses completed so far; grades for the seminars at Masters level.
- 4) List of 3 topics in order of preference.

# Topics

- 1) **Rural-Urban Migration and Unemployment**  
Reference: Brueckner, J.K., and Zenou, Y. (1999). Harris-Todaro models with a land market. *Regional Science and Urban Economics* 29, 317-339.
- 2) **The Structure of Cities**  
Reference: Brueckner, J. K. (1987). The structure of urban equilibria: A unified treatment of the Muth-Mills model. *Handbook of Regional and Urban Economics* 2, 821-845.
- 3) **Knowledge Externalities and City Sizes**  
Reference: Abdel-Rahman, H., and Fujita, M. (1990). Product variety, Marshallian externalities, and city sizes. *Journal of Regional Science* 30, 165-183.
- 4) **A Theory of Urban Growth**  
Reference: Black, D., and Henderson, V. (1999). A theory of urban growth. *Journal of Political Economy* 107, 252-284.
- 5) **Human Capital Externalities in Cities**  
Reference: Moretti, E. (2004). Human capital externalities in cities. *Handbook of Regional and Urban Economics* 4, 2243-2291.
- 6) **The Rise of the Skilled City**  
Reference: Glaeser, E.L., Saiz, A., Burtless, G., and Strange, W.C. (2004). The rise of the skilled city. *Brookings-Wharton Papers on Urban Affairs*, 47-105.
- 7) **Cities and Economic Growth**  
Reference: Henderson, J.V. (2003), The urbanization process and economic growth: The so-what question, *Journal of Economic Growth* (8), 47-71.
- 8) **The Costs of Remoteness**  
Reference: Redding, S. J., and Sturm, D.M. (2008). The Costs of remoteness: Evidence from German division and reunification. *American Economic Review* 98, 1766-97.
- 9) **Path Dependence of Cities**  
Reference: Bleakley, H., and Lin, J. (2012). Portage and path dependence. *Quarterly Journal of Economics* 127, 587-644.
- 10) **Explaining Urban Giants**  
Reference: Ades, A.F., and Glaeser, E.L. (1995). Trade and circuses: Explaining urban giants. *Quarterly Journal of Economics* 110, 195-227.
- 11) **Nursery Cities**  
Reference: Duranton, G., and Puga, D. (2001). Nursery cities: Urban diversity, process innovation, and the life cycle of products. *American Economic Review* 91, 1454-1477.
- 12) **The Mortality Transition and the Rise of Poor Mega-Cities**  
Reference: Jedwab, R., and Vollrath, D. (2015). The mortality transition, Malthusian dynamics, and the rise of poor mega-cities. Working Paper, Department of Economics, George Washington University.
- 13) **Causes and Consequences of Urbanization in Poorer Countries**  
Reference: Glaeser, E.L. (2014). A world of cities: The causes and consequences of urbanization in poorer countries. *Journal of the European Economic Association* 12, 1154-1199.
- 14) **Urbanization in the Very Long Run**  
Reference: Motamed, M.J., Florax, R.J., and Masters, W.A. (2014). Agriculture, transportation and the timing of urbanization: Global analysis at the grid cell level. *Journal of Economic Growth* 19, 339-368.
- 15) **Cities as Networks**  
Reference: Bettencourt, L.M. (2013). The origins of scaling in cities. *Science* 340, 1438-1441 (and Supplement).

## 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 Viacheslav Yakubenko (vyakube@gwdg.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)