



Göttingen, 8. Februar 2018

Bachelor-Seminar (Spring 2018)

Economics of the Very Long Run – Historical Roots of Economic Development

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

Dates

- 17.4.2018, 13:00-14:00, room ZHG 1.141: introductory meeting
- 22.4.2018: submission of the application form (see last page) in room oec 2.138 or via email (kwerner@uni-goettingen.de)
- 23.4.2018–15.5.2018: 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 23.04.2018: publication of the list of participants and the list of topics
- 8.5.2018, 16:15-17:45, room VG 3.102: extra class on “How to write a Seminar Paper”
- 27.5.2018: submission of seminar papers. A PDF version is to be sent to Katharina Werner (kwerner@uni-goettingen.de)
- 29.5.2018, 13.00-14.00, ZHG 1.141: final meeting concerning the seminar
- 8. & 9.6.2018, room VG 4.106 on Friday, Oec. 1.164 on Saturday: blocked seminar

Attendance is compulsory at all these dates.

Grading

Grading will be based upon the following:

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

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-courses in Econometrics, Macro- and Microeconomics

Recommended: B.A.-courses in Economic Growth (can be done simultaneously in the same semester), Mathematics

Topics

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

1. 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

2. Economics of the Potato[☆]

Nunn, N., and Qian, N., 2011, The Potato's Contribution to Population and Urbanization: Evidence from a Historical Experiment. *Quarterly Journal of Economics* 126, 593–650

3. Long-Run Social Mobility

Clark, G., Cummins, N., 2014, Surnames and social mobility in England, 1170–2012. *Human Nature*, 25(4), 517–537

Clark, G., Cummins, N., 2014, Intergenerational wealth mobility in England, 1858–2012: Surnames and social mobility. *The Economic Journal*, 125(582), 61–85

4. The Longevity of Famous People

De la Croix, D., Licandro, O., 2015, The longevity of famous people from Hammurabi to Einstein. *Journal of Economic Growth*, 20(3), 263–303

5. 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

6. Pre-colonial Ethnic Institutions and Contemporary African Development

Michalopoulos, S., Papaioannou, E., 2013, Pre-colonial Ethnic Institutions and Contemporary African Development. *Econometrica* 81(1), 113–152

7. Colonialism and Modern Income

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

8. Climate and the Emergence of Global Income Differences[☆]

Andersen, T.B., Dalgaard, C.J., Selaya, P., 2016, Climate and the Emergence of Global Income Differences. *Review of Economic Studies*, 83(4), 1334–1363

9. State History and Economic Development

Borcan, O., Olsson, O., Putterman, L., 2017, State history and economic development: evidence from six millennia. *Journal of Economic Growth*, 1–40

10. Roman Roots of European Development

Wahl, F., 2017, Does European development have Roman roots? Evidence from the German Limes. *Journal of Economic Growth* 22(3), 313–349

11. Human Capital and Industrialization

Squicciarini, M.P., Voigtländer, N., 2015, Human Capital and Industrialization: Evidence from the Age of Enlightenment. *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, 130(4), 1825–1883.

12. Education and Catch-Up in the Industrial Revolution

Becker, S.O., Hornung, E., Woessmann, L., 2011, Education and Catch-Up in the Industrial Revolution. *American Economic Journal: Macroeconomics* 3, 92–126

13. Pre-Reformation Roots of the Protestant Ethic

Barnebeck Andersen, T., Bentzen, J., Dalgaard, C.-J., Sharp, P., 2017, Pre-Reformation Roots of the Protestant Ethic. *The Economic Journal* 127, 1756–1793

14. Protestantism and Economic Prosperity in China, 1840–1920

Bai, Y., Kai-sing Kung, J., 2015, Diffusing Knowledge while Spreading God's Message: Protestantism and Economic Prosperity in China, 1840–1920. *Journal of the European Economic Association* 13(4), 669–698

15. Migrants and the Making of America

Sequeira, S., Nunn, N., Qian, N., 2017, Migrants and the Making of America: The Short- and Long-run Effects of Immigration during the Age of Mass Migration. NBER Working Paper 23289

16. The Baby Boom and World War II[☆]

Doepke, M., Hazan, M., 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** (excluding 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”). Notice 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)

Application form “Historical Roots of Economic Development”, SS 2018

Please hand this application form at room Oec 2.138 before 24.04.2018 (or send the scanned version by e-mail to kwerner@uni-goettingen.de).

Name:

Enrollment Number:

EMail:

Subject:

Semester:

Exchange: (Yes/No)

Credits passed:

Courses passed at at the chair “Macroeconomics and Development”:

Preferred Topics:

- 1)
- 2)
- 3)

I would like to apply for a place in the seminar “Historical Roots of Economic Development”, SS 2018

(Signature)

Plagiarism Statement

Name:

Matrikelnummer:

The seminar paper on the topic _____ for the Seminar "Economics of the Very Long Run: Historical Roots of Economic Development" in Fall 2018 was written by me and in my own words, except for quotations from published and unpublished sources which are clearly indicated and acknowledged as such. I am conscious that the incorporation of material from other works or a paraphrase of such material without acknowledgement will be treated as plagiarism, according to the regulations of the University of Goettingen.

I also agree that my seminar paper will be checked with a specialized software.

Date _____

Signature: _____