



Göttingen, 4. August 2020

## Bachelor-Seminar (Winter Term 2020/21): Economics of the very long run

If after reading this infofile you have any questions left, write an email to [matthias.beulmann@uni-goettingen.de](mailto:matthias.beulmann@uni-goettingen.de)

### Grading

Grading will be based upon the following:

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

### Required background knowledge

BA - courses in Mathematics, Econometrics, Macro- and Microeconomics

### Structure of the seminar

- **26.10.2020, 13:00 - 14:00: Intromeeting.** We will use Big Blue Button, you can find the room by registering for the course on StudIP and clicking on “Meetings” in the top bar. To ensure that the meeting goes smoothly, please keep your microphones on mute during the presentation. If you would like to ask a question during the presentation, just unmute yourself and ask, or type it out in the chat. The intromeeting will additionally be recorded and uploaded to StudIP.
- Until **04.11.2020, 15:00:** After the intromeeting, you have one and a half weeks to submit your application for the seminar, via email to [matthias.beulmann@uni-goettingen.de](mailto:matthias.beulmann@uni-goettingen.de). ***You can find the application form as a separate file in StudIP.*** You can name up to 4 topic preferences, with no guarantee given that you will receive one of your preferred topics as your seminar topic. In case that there are more applications than available places we will distribute the places according to the study regulation. Please choose your top priorities carefully, to ensure that you are comfortable with your selected topic. **Also: if not done already, this is the time to register for the course in StudIP. All further communication will be done through StudIP!**
- Starting from **04.11.2020: publication of the list of participants and the list of topics.** The list will be published as fast as possible, sometimes the process of allocation takes a few days. After publication, the official work-time for writing the seminar paper begins.
- **26.10. – 23.11.2020:** Period for the binding registration or cancellation for the course via FlexNow.
- **17.12.2020:** submission of your seminar paper no later than 15:00. A .pdf version is to be sent to Matthias Beulmann ([matthias.beulmann@uni-goettingen.de](mailto:matthias.beulmann@uni-goettingen.de)), a paper copy is not necessary. **Please notice that due to organizational constraints, the submission deadline of the seminar paper cannot be extended by any circumstance (e.g. illness).**
- Starting from **17.12.2020:** publication of the exact schedule for the block meeting and the matching between topics and discussants.
- Until **21.01.2021, 15:00:** submission of the slides of your seminar presentation. A .pdf version is to be sent to Matthias Beulmann ([matthias.beulmann@uni-goettingen.de](mailto:matthias.beulmann@uni-goettingen.de)). This is to ensure that there is atleast a working presentation available on the day of the seminar. You can improve your slides after sending them to me, and use the updated version on the seminar day.
- **22.01.2021, whole day:** block seminar. ***Not yet clear if this will be a virtual or a in-person meeting.***
- **23.01.2021, whole day:** block seminar. ***Not yet clear if this will be a virtual or a in-person meeting.***

Attendance at the whole blocked seminar is compulsory.

## Topics

Please make sure to use the source provided here, and not an alternative working paper version. The links provided here are just for your convenience, please check that they lead to the correct paper.

### 1. Dynamics and Stagnation in the Malthusian Epoch

Reference: Ashraf, Q. and Galor, O., 2011, Dynamics and Stagnation in the Malthusian Epoch: Theory and Evidence, *American Economic Review* 101, 2003-2041.

[link to article](#)

### 2. Escaping Malthus: Economic Growth and Fertility Change in the Developing World

Reference: Chatterjee, S., and Vogl, T. (2018). Escaping Malthus: Economic growth and fertility change in the developing world. *American Economic Review*, 108(6), 1440-67.

### 3. The Role of Human Capital and Innovation in Economic Development

Reference: Cinnirella, F., and Streb, J. (2017). The role of human capital and innovation in economic development: evidence from post-Malthusian Prussia. *Journal of Economic Growth*, 1-35.

[link to article](#)

### 4. Public Goods Institutions, Human Capital, and Growth

Reference: Dittmar, J. E., and Meisenzahl, R. R. (2020). Public goods institutions, human capital, and growth: evidence from German history. *The Review of Economic Studies*, 87(2), 959-996.

[link to article](#)

### 5. Medieval Universities, Legal Institutions, and the Commercial Revolution

Reference: Cantoni, D., and Yuchtman, N. (2014). Medieval universities, legal institutions, and the commercial revolution. *The Quarterly Journal of Economics*, 129(2), 823-887.

[link to article](#)

### 6. British Economic Growth since 1270: The Role of Education

Reference: Madsen, J. B., and Murin, F. (2017). British economic growth since 1270: the role of education. *Journal of Economic Growth*, 22(3), 229-272.

[link to article](#)

### 7. Climate and the Emergence of Global Income Differences

Reference: Andersen, T. B., Dalgaard, C. J., and Selaya, P. (2016). Climate and the emergence of global income differences. *Review of Economic Studies*, 83(4), 1334-1363.

[link to article](#)

### 8. The Global Distribution of Economic Activity

Reference: Henderson, J. V., Squires, T., Storeygard, A., and Weil, D. (2018). The global distribution of economic activity: nature, history, and the role of trade. *The Quarterly Journal of Economics*, 133(1), 357-406.

[link to article](#)

### 9. Religion, Division of Labor, and Conflict: Anti-Semitism in Germany over 600 Years

Reference: Becker, S. O., and Pascali, L. (2019). Religion, Division of Labor, and Conflict: Anti-Semitism in Germany over 600 Years. *American Economic Review*, 109(5), 1764-1804.

[link to article](#)

### 10. Railroads and Growth in Prussia

Reference: Hornung, E. (2015). Railroads and growth in Prussia. *Journal of the European Economic Association*, 13(4), 699-736.

[link to article](#)

### 11. The Bounty of the Sea and Long-Run Development

Reference: Dalgaard, C.J., Knudsen, A.S.B., and Selaya, P. (2020). The Bounty of the Sea and Long-run development, *Journal of Economic Growth*, forthcoming.

[link to article](#)

### 12. Modern Gender Roles and Agricultural History

Reference: Hansen, C.W., Jensen, P.S., and Skovsgaard, C.V. (2015). Modern gender roles and agricultural history: the Neolithic inheritance. *Journal of Economic Growth*, 20(4), 365-404.

link to article

### 13. Potatoes, Milk, and the Old World Population Boom

Reference: Cook, C. J. (2014). Potatoes, milk, and the Old World population boom. *Journal of Development Economics*, 110, 123-138.

link to article

### 14. Immigrants and the Making of America

Reference: Sequeira, S., Nunn, N., and Qian, N. (2020). Immigrants and the Making of America. *The Review of Economic Studies*, 87(1), 382-419.

link to article

### 15. The Persistence of Fortune: Accounting for Population Movements

Reference: Chanda, A., Cook, C. J., and Putterman, L. (2014). Persistence of fortune: Accounting for population movements, there was no post-Columbian reversal. *American Economic Journal: Macroeconomics*, 6(3), 1-28.

link to article

### 16. The Persistence of (Subnational) Fortune

Reference: Maloney, W. F., and Valencia Caicedo, F. (2016). The persistence of (subnational) fortune. *The Economic Journal*, 126(598), 2363-2401.

link to article

## Writing and an Essay and Preparing a Presentation

Advice for writing an essay and preparing a presentation: Advice **←Read this!**

### The seminar paper

Content:

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.**

Formatting:

The seminar paper must not be **longer than 15 pages** (excluding appendices and the list of references). Tables and figures to which you refer to in the text should also be placed in the text, and can be agreed on to not count towards the 15 pages. 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.**

## 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 Matthias Beulmann (matthias.beulmann@uni-goettingen.de) as a .pdf file (no ppt files!) until the day before the seminar, 15:00 latest.**

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 30 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)