



Göttingen, 17. Juni 2022

Bachelor-Seminar (Winter Term 2022/23): Roots of Wealth and Inequality

If, after reading this infofile, you have any questions left, write an email to matthias.beulmann@uni-goettingen.de

Overview

In this seminar, we discuss the book "The Journey of Humanity: The Origins of Wealth and Inequality" by Oded Galor, Bodley Head 2022. All participants have read the book before the seminar and present in their essay and seminar talk one selected study and how it relates to a particular chapter of the book.

Structure of the seminar

- **01.11.2022, 14:15, room tba: Intromeeeting.**
- Until **08.11.2022**: After the intromeeeting, you have one week to submit your application for the seminar, via email to matthias.beulmann@uni-goettingen.de. **You can find the application form as a seperate 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 announcements will be done through StudIP!**
- Starting from **08.11.2022: 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.
- **08.11. – 19.01.2023**: Period for the binding registration or cancellation for the course via FlexNow.
- **16.12.2022**: 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), 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 circumstances (e.g. illness).**
- Starting from **16.12.2022**: publication of the exact schedule for the block meeting and the matching between topics and discussants.
- Until **19.01.2023, 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). 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.
- **20.01.2023, whole day, room tba**: block seminar.
- **21.01.2023, whole day, room tba**: block seminar.

Attendance at the whole blocked seminar is compulsory.

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.

Topics

Please make sure to use the source provided here, and not an alternative working paper version.

Chapter 1: First Steps

Reference: Cortes, K.E. (2004). Hibbs, D. A., and Olsson, O. (2004). Geography, biogeography, and why some countries are rich and others are poor. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, 101(10), 3715-3720.

Chapter 2: Lost in Stagnation

Reference: Ashraf, Q., and Galor, O. (2011). Dynamics and stagnation in the Malthusian epoch. *American Economic Review*, 101(5), 2003-41.

Chapter 3: The Storm beneath the Surface

Reference: Becker, S. O., Cinnirella, F., & Woessmann, L. (2010). The trade-off between fertility and education: evidence from before the demographic transition. *Journal of Economic Growth*, 15(3), 177-204.

Chapter 4: Full Steam

Reference: Cinnirella, F., & Streb, J. (2017). The role of human capital and innovation in economic development: evidence from post-Malthusian Prussia. *Journal of economic growth*, 22(2), 193-227.

Chapter 5A: Metamorphosis

Reference: Lehr, C. S. (2009). Evidence on the demographic transition. *The Review of Economics and Statistics*, 91(4), 871-887.

Chapter 5B: Metamorphosis

Reference: Cervellati, M., & Sunde, U. (2011). Life expectancy and economic growth: the role of the demographic transition. *Journal of economic growth*, 16(2), 99-133.

Chapter 6: The Promised Land

Reference: Franck, R., & Galor, O. (2021). Flowers of evil? Industrialization and long run development. *Journal of Monetary Economics*, 117, 108-128.

Chapter 7: Splendour and Misery

Reference: O'Rourke, K. H., & Williamson, J. G. (2005). From Malthus to Ohlin: Trade, industrialisation and distribution since 1500. *Journal of Economic Growth*, 10(1), 5-34.

Chapter 8: The Fingerprints of Institutions

Reference: Acemoglu, D., Cantoni, D., Johnson, S., & Robinson, J. A. (2011). The Consequences of Radical Reform: The French Revolution. *The American Economic Review*, 101(7), 3286-3307.

Chapter 9: The Cultural Factor

Reference: Gorodnichenko, Y., & Roland, G. (2017). Culture, institutions, and the wealth of nations. *Review of Economics and Statistics*, 99(3), 402-416.

Chapter 10: The Shadow of Geography

Reference: Alsan, M. (2015). The effect of the tsetse fly on African development. *American Economic Review*, 105(1), 382-410.

Chapter 11: The Legacy of the Agricultural Revolution

Reference: Bockstette, V., Chanda, A., & Putterman, L. (2002). States and markets: The advantage of an early start. *Journal of Economic growth*, 7(4), 347-369.

Chapter 12: Out of Africa

Reference: Alesina, A., Devleeschauwer, A., Easterly, W., Kurlat, S., & Wacziarg, R. (2003). Fractionalization. *Journal of Economic growth*, 8(2), 155-194.

Required background knowledge

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

Read this! \Rightarrow Advice \Leftarrow 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, and how they relate to the respective chapter of Oded Galor's book. **The objective of the seminar paper is that a reader unfamiliar with the original journal article and chapter 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. 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)