



Göttingen, 21. Februar 2017

Bachelor Seminar (Summer 2017)

Economics of Islam

If you need further information regarding the seminar please contact Viacheslav Yakubenko (vyakube@gwdg.de) or Johannes Schünemann (johannes.schuenemann@wiwi.uni-goettingen.de).

Dates

- 13.04.2017, 13:00, Oec. 0.169: introductory meeting
- 20.04.2017: submission of the applications
- 21.04.–01.05.2017: 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 21.04.2017: publication of the list of participants and the list of topics
- 27.04.2017, 16:00-17.00, Oec. 1.165: preparatory meeting “How to write a seminar paper”
- 29.05.2017: submission of seminar papers no later than 23:59. A PDF version is to be sent to Johannes Schünemann (johannes.schuenemann@wiwi.uni-goettingen.de) or Viacheslav Yakubenko (vyakube@gwdg.de).
- 08.06.2017, 13:00, VG 1.106: final meeting concerning the seminar
- 16.-17.06.2017, block seminar, Oec. 0.211

Attendance is compulsory at all 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 note that due to organizational constraints, the submission deadline of the seminar cannot be extended by any circumstance (e.g., illness)

Required background knowledge

Necessary: BA–courses in Econometrics, Macro- and Microeconomics or equivalent

Application

To apply for the course, please, send a scanned version of the application form (see next page) to Viacheslav Yakubenko (vyakube@gwdg.de) or bring the paper version to the room Oec 2.201.

Application form for the seminar “Economics of Islam”, Summer 2017

Please hand this Application form at room Oec 2.201 before 20.04.2017 (or send the scanned version by e-mail to vyakube@gwdg.de).

Name:

Enrollment Number:

Subject:

Semester:

Exchange: (YES/NO)

Credits passed:

Grade in Econometrics:

Grade in Growth and Development:

Hauptseminar I passed (Yes/No):

if yes: **Topic:**

Grade:

Hauptseminar II passed (Yes/No):

Preferred Topics:

1.:

2.:

3.:

I would like to apply for a place in the seminar “Economics of Islam”, Summer 2017.

(Signature)

Topics

- 1) **People's Opium? Religion and Economic Attitudes**
Reference: Guiso, L., Sapienza, P., and Zingales, L. (2003). People's Opium? Religion and Economic Attitudes. *Journal of Monetary Economics*, 50(1), 225-282.
- 2) **Does Religion Affect Economic Growth and Happiness? Evidence from Ramadan**
Reference: Campante, F., and Yanagizawa-Drott, D. (2015). Does Religion Affect Economic Growth and Happiness? Evidence from Ramadan. *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, 130(2), 615-658.
- 3) **Democratic Change in the Arab World**
Reference: Chaney, E. (2012). Democratic change in the Arab world, past and present. *Brookings Papers on Economic Activity*, 2012(1), 363-414.
- 4) **A theory of the Islamic Revival in Egypt**
Reference: Binzel, C., and Carvalho, J.P. (2013). Education, social mobility and religious movements: A theory of the Islamic revival in Egypt.
- 5) **Interest Restrictions in Islam and Christianity**
References: Rubin, J. (2011). Institutions, the rise of commerce and the persistence of laws: Interest restrictions in Islam and Christianity. *Economic Journal*, 121(557), 1310-1339.
- 6) **Law, State Power, and Taxation in Islamic History**
Reference: Cosgel, M., Miceli, T., and Ahmed, R. (2009). Law, state power, and taxation in Islamic history. *Journal of Economic Behavior & Organization*, 71(3), 704-717.
- 7) **The Institutional Legacy of the Ottoman Empire**
Reference: Grosjean, P. (2011). The institutional legacy of the Ottoman Empire: Islamic rule and financial development in South Eastern Europe. *Journal of Comparative Economics*, 39(1), 1-16.
- 8) **Taxes, Charity, and Political Islam**
Reference: Fourati, M., Gratton, G., and Grosjean, P. A. (2016). Render unto Caesar: Taxes, charity, and political Islam.
- 9) **Islam, Inequality and Pre-industrial Comparative Development**
Reference: Michalopoulos, S., Naghavi, A., and Prarolo, G. (2016). Islam, inequality and pre-industrial comparative development. *Journal of Development Economics*, 120, 86-98.
- 10) **Religion and Tolerance in Islam's Global Gathering**
Reference: Clingingsmith, D., Khwaja, A. I., and Kremer, M. (2009). Estimating the Impact of the Hajj: Religion and Tolerance in Islam's Global Gathering. *The Quarterly Journal of Economics*, 1133-1170.
- 11) **Health capital and the Prenatal Environment: the Effect of Ramadan Observance during Pregnancy**
Reference: Almond, D., and Mazumder, B. A. (2011). Health capital and the prenatal environment: the effect of Ramadan observance during pregnancy. *American Economic Journal: Applied Economics*, 3(4), 56-85.
- 12) **Islam's Democracy Paradox**
Reference: Rowley, C. K., and Smith, N. (2009). Islam's democracy paradox: Muslims claim to like democracy, so why do they have so little?. *Public Choice*, 139(3-4), 273-299.
- 13) **Islam and Fertility**
References: Heaton, T. B. (2011). Does religion influence fertility in developing countries. *Population Research and Policy Review*, 30(3), 449-465.
Munshi, K., and Myaux, J. (2006). Social norms and the fertility transition. *Journal of Development Economics*, 80(1), 1-38.
- 14) **Does Secular Education Impact Religiosity, Electoral Participation and the Propensity to Vote for Islamic Parties?**
Reference: Cesur, R., and Mocan, N. H. (2013). Does secular education impact religiosity, electoral participation and the propensity to vote for Islamic parties? Evidence from an education reform in a Muslim country, NBER Working Paper 19769.
- 15) **The Power of the Street: Evidence from Egypt's Arab Spring**
Reference: Acemoglu, D., Hassan, T. A., and Tahoun, A. (2014). The power of the street: Evidence from Egypt's Arab Spring NBER Working Paper 20665).

16) **Club Goods and Group Identity**

Reference: Chen, D. L. (2010). Club goods and group identity: Evidence from Islamic resurgence during the Indonesian financial crisis. *Journal of Political Economy*, 118(2), 300-354.

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”). 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)