



Göttingen, den 24. Juli 2019

Bachelor-Seminar (Fall 2019)

Culture and Long-Run Development

If you need further information regarding the seminar please contact Devin Erel (devin.ere@uni-goettingen.de).

Dates

- 28.10.29, 13:00-14:00, room oec 0.168: introductory meeting
- 4.11.2019: submission of the application form (see last page) in room oec 2.201 or via email (devin.ere@uni-goettingen.de)
- 5.11.2019–15.11.2019: 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 5.11.2019: publication of the list of participants and the list of topics
- 14.11.2019, 16:00-18:00, room oec 1.163: extra class on “How to write a Seminar Paper”
- 15.12.2019: submission of seminar papers. A PDF version is to be sent to Devin Erel (devin.ere@uni-goettingen.de)
- 8.01.2020, 13.00-14.00, room oec 1.162: final meeting concerning the seminar
- 17.01. & 18.01.2019: blocked seminar (rooms ZHG 1.140 (Friday) and oec 1.165 (Saturday))

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, English)
- 3) Discussion of another topic (5 minutes, 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, Mathematics

Topics

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

1. Culture: Persistence and Evolution[☆]

Giavazzi, F., Petkov, I., and Schiantarelli, F., 2019, Culture: Persistence and Evolution. *Journal of Economic Growth* 24(2), 117–154.

<https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s10887-019-09166-2>

2. Culture, Ethnicity, and Diversity

Desmet, K., Ortuno-Ortin, I., and Wacziarg, R., 2017, Culture, Ethnicity, and Diversity. *American Economic Review* 107(9), 2479–2513.

<https://www.aeaweb.org/articles?id=10.1257/aer.20150243>

3. Long-run Persistence of Trust and Corruption

Becker, S.O., Boeckh, K., Hainz, C., and Woessmann, L., 2016, The empire is dead, long live the empire! Long-run persistence of trust and corruption in the bureaucracy. *Economic Journal* 126(590), 40–74.

<https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1111/econj.12220>

4. Global Evidence on Economic Preferences

Falk, A., Becker, A., Dohmen, T., Enke, B., Huffman, D., and Sunde, U., 2018, Global evidence on economic preferences. *Quarterly Journal of Economics* 133(4), 1645–1692.

<https://academic.oup.com/qje/article/133/4/1645/5025666>

5. Family Values and the Regulation of Labor[☆]

Alesina, A., Algan, Y., Cahuc, P., and Giuliano, P., 2015, Family values and the regulation of labor. *Journal of the European Economic Association* 13(4), 599–630.

<https://academic.oup.com/jeea/article/13/4/599/2319779>

6. Culture, Institutions, and the Wealth of Nations

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

https://www.mitpressjournals.org/doi/abs/10.1162/REST_a_00599

7. Cultural Differences in Europe

Alesina, A., Tabellini, G., and Trebbi, F., 2017, Is Europe an Optimal Political Area?. *Brookings Papers on Economic Activity*, 169–213.

https://www.jstor.org/stable/90013171?seq=1#metadata_info_tab_contents

8. Beliefs, Work, and Fertility

Fernandez, R. and Fogli, A., 2009, Culture: An empirical investigation of beliefs, work and fertility. *American Economic Journal: Macroeconomics* 1, 146–177.

<https://www.aeaweb.org/articles?id=10.1257/mac.1.1.146>

9. The Organization of Firms Across Countries[☆]

Bloom, N., Sadun, R., and Van Reenen, J., 2012, The organization of firms across countries. *Quarterly Journal of Economics* 127(4), 1663–1705.

<https://academic.oup.com/qje/article/127/4/1663/1842108>

10. Culture, Context, and the Taste for Redistribution

Luttmer, E. F., and Singhal, M., 2011, Culture, context, and the taste for redistribution. *American Economic Journal: Economic Policy* 3(1), 157–79.

<https://www.aeaweb.org/articles?id=10.1257/pol.3.1.157>

11. The Effect of Language on Economic Behavior

Chen, M. K., 2013, The effect of language on economic behavior: Evidence from savings rates, health behaviors, and retirement assets. *American Economic Review* 103(2), 690–731.

<https://www.aeaweb.org/articles?id=10.1257/aer.103.2.690>

12. What Drives Women out of Management?

Guiso, L., and Rustichini, A., 2018, What drives women out of management? The joint role of testosterone and culture. *European Economic Review* 109, 221–237.

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0014292117301964>

13. The Culture of Honor and Homicide in the US South

Grosjean, P., 2014, A history of violence: The culture of honor and homicide in the US South. *Journal of the European Economic Association* 12(5), 1285–1316.

<https://academic.oup.com/jeea/article/12/5/1285/2319704>

14. The Slave Trade and the Origins of Mistrust in Africa

Nunn, N., and Wantchekon, L., 2011, The slave trade and the origins of mistrust in Africa. *American Economic Review* 101(7), 3221–3252.

<https://www.aeaweb.org/articles?id=10.1257/aer.101.7.3221>

15. The Medieval Origins of Anti-Semitic Violence in Nazi Germany

Voigtländer, N., and Voth, H.J., 2011, Persecution perpetuated: The medieval origins of anti-Semitic violence in Nazi Germany. *Quarterly Journal of Economics* 127(3), 1339–1392

<https://academic.oup.com/qje/article/127/3/1339/1922392>

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, indention 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 Devin Erel (devin.erel@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)

The discussion

You are expected to read the original paper and not improvise based on the fellow student's presentation. You can raise a discussion of something you might have understood differently from the paper; discuss the empirical strategy and/ or the assumptions of the model/ paper; critically assess the results; critical questions; etc. Slides are not necessary, but you can include them if you want.

Application form “Culture and Long-Run Development”, WS 2019

Please hand this application form at room Oec 2.201 before 4.11.2019 (or send the scanned version by e-mail to devin.ere1@uni-goettingen.de).

Name:

Enrollment Number:

EMail:

Subject:

Semester:

Exchange: (Yes/No)

Credits passed:

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

Have you passed any seminar before? (yes/no) If yes, which ones?

Preferred Topics:

1)

2)

3)

I agree to receive a different topic in case I am not able to get a topic among my preferred ones. YES/NO (please mark your choice)

I would like to apply for a place in the seminar “Culture and Long-Run Development”, WS 2019

(Signature)

Plagiarism Statement “Culture and Long-Run Development”, WS 2019

Name:

Enrollment Number:

Topic:

My seminar paper for the Seminar “Culture and Long-Run Development” in Fall 2019 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 acknowledgment will be treated as plagiarism, according to the regulations of the University of Göttingen.

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

(Date)

(Signature)