



Göttingen, den 19. Mai 2021

## Bachelor-Seminar (Wintersemester 2021)

### Economics of the very long run: Inequality

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

## Dates

- 27.10.21, 13:00-14:00, room tba: introductory meeting
- 7.11.2021: submission of the application form by email (kwerner@uni-goettingen.de)
- 8.11.2021–15.11.2021: binding registration or cancellation by FlexNow  
**Attention: In case that there are more potential participants than available places we will distribute the places according to the study regulation of 22.11.2019, §12**
- starting from 8.11.2021: publication of the list of participants and the list of topics
- 18.11.2021, 16:00-17:00, room tba: extra class on “How to write a Seminar Paper”
- 22.12.2021: submission of seminar papers. A PDF version is to be sent to Katharina Werner (kwerner@uni-goettingen.de)
- 12.01.2022, 13.00-14.00, room tba: final meeting concerning the seminar
- 21.01. & 22.01.2022: blocked seminar (rooms tba)

**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

## Introductory articles for all participants

- Piketty, T., and Saez, E., 2014, Inequality in the long run. *Science*, 344(6186), 838–843.
- Corak, M., 2013, Income inequality, equality of opportunity, and intergenerational mobility. *Journal of Economic Perspectives*, 27(3), 79–102.

# Topics

## 1. Pre-Industrial Inequality

Milanovic, B., Lindert, P., and Williamson, J.G., 2010, Pre-Industrial Inequality. *Economic Journal*, 121, 255–272.

## 2. How Much of Our Income is Determined by Where We Live?

Milanovic, B., 2015, Global inequality of opportunity: How much of our income is determined by where we live?. *Review of Economics and Statistics*, 97(2), 452–460.

## 3. Growth Still is Good for the Poor

Dollar, D., Kleineberg, T., and Kraay, A., 2016, Growth still is good for the poor. *European Economic Review*, 81, 68–85.

## 4. Income Inequality in the United States

Piketty, T., and Saez, E., 2003, Income inequality in the United States, 1913–1998. *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, 118(1), 1–41.

## 5. Lifetime Earnings Inequality in Germany

Bönke, T., Corneo, G., and Lüthen, H., 2008, Lifetime earnings inequality in Germany. *Journal of Labor Economics*, 33(1), 171–208.

## 6. Redistribution, Inequality, and Growth

Berg, A., Ostry, J. D., Tsangarides, C. G., and Yakhshilikov, Y., 2018, Redistribution, inequality, and growth: new evidence. *Journal of Economic Growth*, 23(3), 259–305.

## 7. Inequality of Opportunity and Growth

Marrero, G. A., and Rodríguez, J. G., 2013, Inequality of opportunity and growth. *Journal of Development Economics*, 104, 107–122.

## 8. The Correlation of Wealth Across Generations

Charles, K. K., and Hurst, E., 2003, The correlation of wealth across generations. *Journal of Political Economy*, 111(6), 1155–1182.

## 9. The Role of Nature versus Nurture in Wealth and other Economic Outcomes and Behaviors

Majlesi, K., Lundborg, P., Black, S., and Devereux, P., 2019, Poor little rich kids? The role of nature versus nurture in wealth and other economic outcomes and behaviors. *Review of Economic Studies*, 87(4), 1683–1725.

## 10. The Economics and Psychology of Inequality and Human Development

Cunha, F., and Heckman, J.J., 2009, The economics and psychology of inequality and human development. *Journal of the European Economic Association*, 7(2–3), 320–364.

## 11. The Impacts of Neighborhoods on Intergenerational Mobility

Chetty, R., and Hendren, N., 2018, The impacts of neighborhoods on intergenerational mobility I: Childhood exposure effects. *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, 133(3), 1107–1162.

## 12. Mortality and Morbidity in the 21st Century

Case, A., and Deaton, A., 2017, Mortality and morbidity in the 21st century. *Brookings Papers on Economic Activity*, 2017, 397.

## 13. Explaining Job Polarization

Goos, M., Manning, A., and Salomons, A., 2014, Explaining job polarization: Routine-biased technological change and offshoring. *American Economic Review*, 104(8), 2509–26.

## 14. Inequality and Happiness: Are Europeans and Americans Different?

Alesina, A., Di Tella, R., and MacCulloch, R., 2004, Inequality and happiness: are Europeans and Americans different?. *Journal of Public Economics*, 88(9–10), 2009–2042.

## 15. Genetic Endowments and Wealth Inequality

Barth, D., Papageorge, N. W., and Thom, K., 2020, Genetic endowments and wealth inequality. *Journal of Political Economy*, 128(4), 1474–1522.

## 16. A Grand Gender Convergence: Its Last Chapter

Goldin, C., 2014, A grand gender convergence: Its last chapter. *American Economic Review*, 104(4), 1091–1119.

## 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 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)

## Plagiarism Statement

- Name
- Enrollment Number

The seminar paper on the topic  
for the Seminar “Economics of the very long run: Inequality” in Fall 2021 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 and Signature)