



Göttingen, 17. April 2020

Master-Seminar (Summer Term 2020)

Recent Topics in Macroeconomics: Robots and Development

Please note that due to the Corona pandemic, the intromeeting will take place via Zoom. See below for details. Additionally, please enroll for the course in StudIP, as most of our communication will be done through it. In StudIP, the course is called “Recent Topics in Macroeconomics”.

Dates

- ~~21.04.2020, 13:00, room 1.165 (Oec):~~ Introductory meeting. General important information about the course will be provided. Attendance is required!
- *Because of the Corona virus pandemic, the intromeeting will be held via Zoom and is not mandatory anymore. The time and date remain the same as before (21.04.2020, 1 pm).*

The link for the zoom meeting is:

<https://uni-goettingen.zoom.us/j/95510809994?pwd=NldvbDVFR1lnVG5DbThzOUlZVVBQQT09>

and the password is “Strulik”.

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 or after the presentation, please indicate this via the “hand raise” button (which you find when clicking on “Participants”).

I will try to record the meeting, with no guarantee given that this will work. In any case, should you have questions at any point during the course, please do not hesitate to ask them under matthias.beulmann@uni-goettingen.de.

- Until **01.05.2020, 15:00**: After the intromeeting, you have one and a half weeks to submit your application for the seminar, either in paper form (~~page 4 of this document~~) in room 2.201 (Oec) or via email to 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.
- Starting from **01.05.2020**: publication of the list of participants and the list of topics.
- **28.04. – 07.06.2020**: binding registration or cancellation via FlexNow.
- **12.06.2020**: 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), 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 **12.06.2020**: publication of the exact schedule for the block meeting and the matching between topics and discussants.
- Until **02.06.2020, 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 at least 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.

- **03.07.2020, whole day, room 4.106 (VG):** block seminar. *Not yet clear if this will be a virtual or a in-person meeting.*
- **04.07.2020, whole day, room 1.164 (Oec):** block seminar. *Not yet clear if this will be a virtual or a in-person meeting.*

Attendance at the introductory meeting and the blocked seminar is compulsory.

Required background knowledge

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

Helpful: Introductory MA-courses on Macro- and Microeconomics and Econometrics

Grading

Grading will be based upon the following:

- 1) Seminar paper (15 pages, in English or German)
- 2) Presentation (30 minutes, presumably in English)
- 3) Discussion of another topic (5 minutes, presumably 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.

1. Automation and New Tasks: How Technology Displaces and Reinstates Labor

Reference: Acemoglu, D., and Restrepo, P. (2019). Automation and new tasks: how technology displaces and reinstates labor. *Journal of Economic Perspectives*, 33(2), 3-30.

2. Artificial Intelligence and the Future of Labor Demand

Reference: Acemoglu, D., and Restrepo, P. (2019). The Wrong Kind of AI? Artificial Intelligence and the Future of Labor Demand (No. w25682). National Bureau of Economic Research.

3. Disappearing Routine Jobs: Who, How, and Why?

Reference: Cortes, G. M., Jaimovich, N., and Siu, H. E. (2017). Disappearing routine jobs: Who, how, and why?. *Journal of Monetary Economics*, 91, 69-87.

4. Robots at Work

Reference: Graetz, G., and Michaels, G. (2018). Robots at work. *Review of Economics and Statistics*, 100(5), 753-768.

5. On the Welfare Implications of Automation

Reference: Eden, M., and Gaggl, P. (2018). On the Welfare Implications of Automation. *Review of Economic Dynamics*, 29, 15-43.

6. Adjusting to Robots: Worker-level Evidence

Reference: Dauth, W., Findeisen, S., Suedekum, J., and Woessner, N. (2018). Adjusting to robots: Worker-level evidence. *DIW Discussion Paper*.

7. Has ICT Polarized Skill Demand?

Reference: Michaels, G., Natraj, A., and Van Reenen, J. (2014). Has ICT polarized skill demand? Evidence from eleven countries over twenty-five years. *Review of Economics and Statistics*, 96(1), 60-77.

8. Who Is Afraid of Machines?

Reference: Blanas, S., Gancia, G., and Lee, S. Y. T. (2020). Who Is Afraid of Machines?. *Economic Policy*, forthcoming.

9. Is Automation Labor-Displacing?

Reference: Autor, D., and Salomons, A. (2018). Is automation labor-displacing? Productivity growth, employment, and the labor share. Brookings Papers on Economic Activity.

10. Robots Worldwide: The Impact of Automation on Employment and Trade

Reference: Carbonero, F., Ernst, E., and Weber, E. (2018). Robots worldwide: The impact of automation on employment and trade. ILO Research Department Working Paper, (36).

11. Robots, Tasks and Trade

Reference: Artuc, E., Bastos, P., and Rijkers, B. (2018). Robots, Tasks and Trade, Discussion Paper, World Bank

12. The Great Reversal in the Demand for Skill and Cognitive Tasks

Reference: Beaudry, P., Green, D. A., and Sand, B. M. (2016). The great reversal in the demand for skill and cognitive tasks. Journal of Labor Economics, 34(S1), S199-S247.

13. Should Robots be Taxed?

Reference: Guerreiro, J., Rebelo, S., and Teles, P. (2017). Should Robots be Taxed? National Bureau of Economic Research Working Paper No. w23806.

14. Artificial Intelligence and the Modern Productivity Paradox

Reference: Faber, M. (2019). Robots and reshoring: Evidence from Mexican labor markets. Discussion Paper, University of Basel)

15. Should We Fear the Robot Revolution?

Reference: Berg, A., Buffie, E. F., and Zanna, L. F. (2018). Should we fear the robot revolution?(The correct answer is yes). Journal of Monetary Economics 97, 117-148.

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, 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"). 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 (30 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)