



Göttingen, 14. Februar 2025

Bachelor-Seminar (Summer Term 25): Inequality

In this seminar we discuss recent studies of economic inequality. Introductory articles for all participants: Piketty, T., and Saez, E. (2014). Inequality in the long run. *Science*, 344(6186), 838-843. And Corak, M. (2013). Income inequality, equality of opportunity, and intergenerational mobility. *Journal of Economic Perspectives*, 27(3), 79-102.

If, after reading this info file, you have any questions left, write an email to johannes.schuenemann@wiwi.uni-goettingen.de

Structure of the seminar

- **17.04.2025, 14:15, room 1.164 (Oeconomicum) : Intro meeting.**
- Until **24.04.2025**: After the intro meeting, you have one week to submit your application for the seminar, via email to johannes.schuenemann@wiwi.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. 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 **24.04.2025: 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.
- **24.04.2025 – 26.06.2025**: Period for the binding registration or cancellation for the course via FlexNow.
- **30.04.2025, 16:00 - 18:00, room VG 3.102 (Verfügungsgebäude - PIZ 5361) : “How to write a seminar paper” meeting with Prof. Strulik. Attendance is required!**
- **15.06.2025**: submission deadline of your seminar paper. A .pdf version is to be sent to Johannes Schünemann (johannes.schuenemann@wiwi.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 **15.06.2025**: publication of the exact schedule for the block meeting and the matching between topics and discussants.
- Until **26.06.2025, 15:00**: submission of the slides of your seminar presentation and your discussion. A .pdf version is to be sent to Johannes Schünemann (johannes.schuenemann@wiwi.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.
- **27.06.2025, whole day, room VG 3.106 (Verfügungsgebäude - PIZ 5361) : block seminar.**
- **28.06.2025, whole day, room 1.164 (Oeconomicum) : 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 account 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. Pre-industrial inequality

Reference: Milanovic, B., Lindert, P., and Williamson, J.G. (2010). Pre-industrial inequality. *Economic Journal* 121, 255-272.

2. The three eras of global inequality

Reference: Milanovic, B. (2024). The three eras of global inequality, 1820-2020 with the focus on the past thirty years. *World Development*, 177, 106516.

3. Inequality and income dynamics in Germany

Reference: Drechsel-Grau, M., Peichl, A., Schmid, K. D., Schmieder, J. F., Walz, H., and Wolter, S. (2022). Inequality and income dynamics in Germany. *Quantitative Economics*, 13(4), 1593-1635.

4. Wealth and its distribution in Germany, 1895-2018

Reference: Albers, T. N., Bartels, C., and Schularick, M. (2022). Wealth and its distribution in Germany, 1895-2018. *Journal of the European Economic Association*, forthcoming.

5. Growth still is good for the poor

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

6. Inequality is bad for growth of the poor (but not for that of the rich)

Reference: Van der Weide, R., and Milanovic, B. (2018). Inequality is bad for growth of the poor (but not for that of the rich). *The World Bank Economic Review*, 32(3), 507-530.

7. Redistribution, inequality, and growth

Reference: 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.

8. Social mobility and economic development

Reference: Neidhöfer, G., Ciaschi, M., Gasparini, L., and Serrano, J. (2024). Social mobility and economic development. *Journal of Economic Growth*, 29(2), 327-359.

9. The role of nature versus nurture in wealth and other economic outcomes and behaviors

Reference: Black, S., Devereux, P., Lundborg, P., and Majlesi, K. (2020). Poor little rich kids? The role of nature versus nurture in wealth and other economic outcomes and behaviors. *Review of Economic Studies* 87, 1683-1725.

10. On the family origins of human capital formation: Evidence from donor children

Reference: Lundborg, P., Plug, E., and Rasmussen, A. W. (2024). On the family origins of human capital formation: Evidence from donor children. *Review of Economic Studies*, rdae101.

11. The impacts of neighborhoods on intergenerational mobility

Reference: 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. Dynastic human capital, inequality, and intergenerational mobility

Reference: Adermon, A., Lindahl, M., and Palme, M. (2021). Dynastic human capital, inequality, and intergenerational mobility. *American Economic Review*, 111(5), 1523-1548.

13. Unequal opportunities and fair redistributions

Reference: Dong, L., Huang, L., and Lien, J. W. (2024). "They Never Had a Chance": Unequal opportunities and fair redistributions. *The Economic Journal*, ueae099.

14. Are Americans more meritocratic and efficiency-seeking than Scandinavians?

Reference: Almas, I., Cappelen, A. W., and Tungodden, B. (2020). Cutthroat capitalism versus cuddly socialism: Are Americans more meritocratic and efficiency-seeking than Scandinavians?. *Journal of Political Economy*, 128(5), 1753-1788.

15. Social positions and fairness views on inequality

Reference: Hvidberg, K. B., Kreiner, C. T., and Stantcheva, S. (2023). Social positions and fairness views on inequality. *Review of Economic Studies*, 90(6), 3083-3118.

16. Shallow meritocracy

Reference: Andre, P. (2024). Shallow meritocracy. *Review of Economic Studies*, rdae040.

Required background knowledge

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

Read this! ➤ Advice ← 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. **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 Johannes Schünemann (johannes.schuenemann@wiwi.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)