



Summer Semester 2021

Current topics of labor market economics

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1. Content, purpose and evaluation of the seminar

- The seminar course deals with current issues in economic policy that are related to the labor market. This semester, the seminar will focus on income inequality. In particular, the following topics will be covered in this course:
 - The effect of automation/digitization on income inequality
 - The effect of globalization on income inequality
 - Gender wage inequality
 - Income inequality in the COVID-19 pandemic
 - Economic policy addressing income inequality
- The goal is to understand and critically discuss the above-mentioned topics on income inequality.
- Examination:
 - Presentation of a research paper (1/3): in groups of two students (10 minutes).
 - Podcast (1/3): in groups of two students (5 minutes)
 - Seminar paper (1/3): 5-10 pages, individually. The seminar paper must be rated at least 4.0 to pass the course [excluding the cover page and references]

2. Participants and requirements

- The course addresses students at the Bachelor level
- Basic knowledge of micro and macroeconomics is an advantage
- Max. 20 participants
- Language of instruction **English**

3. Organizational process and deadlines

- Kick-off:
Friday, 16.04.2021, from 9:00 am to 10:00 am,
room not yet assigned (most likely via Zoom)
- Presentation and discussion of research papers
Friday, 11.06.2021 from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm,
room not yet assigned (most likely via Zoom)
- Podcast session
Thursday, 02.07.2021, from 9:00 am to 12:00 am,
room not yet assigned (most likely via Zoom)
- Submission deadline of seminar papers
Tuesday, 31.08.2021, by email

4. Literature

- Each paper/podcast will be based on one to two current scientific articles that will be provided
- Students are expected to conduct their own literature research and relate their articles to other scientific and non-scientific publications (blogs, popular press, etc.)
- Background reading on income inequality
 - Borjas, George: Labor Economics; Chapter 7 on The Wage Distribution
 - Piketty, Thomas: Capital in the 21st century; Chapter 1, 7 and 9
 - World Bank: Handbook on poverty and inequality; Chapter 6 and 15
- Background reading on labor market policy
 - Cahuc, Pierre, Carcillo, Stéphane and André Zylberberg: Labor Economics; Chapters 7, 8 and 12-14 (non-technical parts)

5. General introduction and motivation of the topic

- Useful web links:
 - Everything you need to know about income inequality (VOX)
<https://www.vox.com/2014/5/7/18076944/income-inequality>
 - Social inequality and inclusive growth (Bundesministerium der Finanzen)
<https://www.bundesfinanzministerium.de/Content/EN/Standardartikel/Topics/International%20affairs/Articles/2019-06-07-social-inequality-and-inclusive-growth.html>
 - Introduction to inequality (IMF)
<https://www.imf.org/en/Topics/Inequality/introduction-to-inequality>

- Income inequality (OCED)
<https://data.oecd.org/inequality/income-inequality.htm>
- World inequality database
<https://wid.world/>
- Youtube Videos:
 - Economic Inequality (Thomas Piketty)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qp3AaI5bWPQ>
 - Globalization and Inequality (Paul Krugman, Janet Gornick, and Branko Milanovic):
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=76FsII006Xs&ab_channel=TheGraduate-Center%2CCUNY
 - The Price of Inequality (Joseph Stiglitz):
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=woerUgtufUo&ab_channel=TalksatGoogle
 - Globalization, Technological Change, and Inequality (Jeffrey Sachs and Paul Krugman):
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K_GtNgUxIJQ&ab_channel=TheGraduate-Center%2CCUNY
 - The Economics of Artificial Intelligence & Income Distribution (Jeffrey Sachs):
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cydK0qOOqU0&t=1485s&ab_channel=TheArtificialIntelligenceChannel
 - Inequality: What Can Be Done? (Robert Solow and Paul Krugman):
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DGmUtJkTaqc&ab_channel=TheGraduate-Center%2CCUNY
 - A Dialogue on COVID-19 and Inequality (Joan Benach and Branko Milanovic)
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fDaugODSmD0&ab_channel=Institut-BarcelonaEstudisInternacionals