



Upcoming Seminars

Monday, 22.4.2024

13.30-14.30

AWI room 00.010

Departmental Seminar

Patrik Guggenberger, Penn State University

"New results on minimax regret treatment rules in finite samples " (Host: Christian Conrad)

Wednesday, 24.4.2024

14.15-15.15

SAI room 010.01.13

SAI Special Lecture

Subhoranjan Dasgupta, Institute of Development Studies, Kolkata

"Ethics, Economics and History in Amartya Sen's Weltanschauung" (Host: Stefan Klöner)

Abstracts

Departmental Seminar

Patrik Guggenberger

"New results on minimax regret treatment rules in finite samples"*

We study minimax regret treatment rules infinite samples under *matched treatment assignment* in a setup where a policymaker, informed by a sample, needs to decide between T different treatments for a $T \geq 2$. Randomized rules are allowed for. We show that the generalization of the minimax regret rule derived in Stoye (2009) for the case $T = 2$ is minimax regret for general finite $T > 2$. We also show by example, that in the case of *random assignment* the generalization of the minimax rule in Stoye (2009) to the case $T > 2$ is not necessarily minimax regret and derive minimax regret rules for a few small sample cases, e.g. for $N = 2$ when $T = 3$. In the case where a covariate x is included, it is shown that a minimax regret rule is obtained by using minimax regret rules in the "conditional-on- x " problem if the latter are obtained as Nash equilibria.

*The talk is based on several papers, e.g.: "A note on minimax regret rules with multiple treatments in finite samples" (with Haoning Chen).

SAI Special Lecture

Subhoranjan Dasgupta

"Ethics, Economics and History in Amartya Sen's *Weltanschauung*"

This lecture deals with the intrinsic relationship between ethics and economics in Amartya Sen's scholarly work. It is argued that much of Sen's epistemological engagements inspired by the cause of human wellbeing, from his pathbreaking study of famine and hunger to his theory of social choice, have emerged and flowered from a specific *Weltanschauung* that lays ethics as the cornerstone of economics or economic philosophy. A part of the lecture will also be devoted to the societal crusade which Amartya Sen has recently waged against the current Hindutva movement in India.

Subhoranjan Dasgupta holds a PhD in south Asian languages from the University of Heidelberg. He has worked as an editor of the Asian Service of *Deutsche Welle* and as professor of human sciences at the Institute of Development Studies, Kolkata. He has interviewed and personally interacted with Amartya Sen several times throughout the various stages of his career.

Talks and Research visits

Giovanni Burro went to Warwick for a research visit (Coventry and Belfast from 18.-28.3.24) and presented his paper "A Walk Down Memory Lane: How Memories Influence Stock Investment and Information Processing" at the *Royal Economic Society's RES 2024* Annual conference held at Queen's University Belfast, United Kingdom, March 26.

New Publications

Ferdinand Rauch and Paul Brandily: "Within-City Roads and Urban Growth", *Journal of Regional Science*, March 2024, <https://doi.org/10.1111/jors.12699f>

Miscellaneous

The Handelsblatt published a ranking of all economists under 40 years in the German speaking countries Germany, Austria, and Switzerland and researchers who are born in these countries. Ferdinand Rauch is listed as number 13.

<https://forschungsmonitoring.org/ranking/vwl/young>

New and leaving Staff

Dietmar Fehr has left the AWI on January 31 and moved to the University of Stuttgart. At the University of Stuttgart he took over the professorship for microeconomics on February 1.

Editorial deadline for issue 08/2024 of the newsletter:
Wednesday, May 1, 2024, 12 p.m.
newsletter@awi.uni-heidelberg.de