



## Upcoming Seminars

### Monday, 3.6.2024

13.30-14.30

AWI room 00.010

### Departmental Seminar

Michael Jetter, University of Western Australia

"Foreshadowing Mars: Religiosity and conflict in pre-Enlightenment Europe"

(Host: Axel Dreher)

### Wednesday, 5.6.2024

12.15-13.15

AWI room 00.010

### Internal Seminar

Sarah Arndt

"Different Newspapers—Different Expectations"

## Abstracts

### Departmental Seminar

Michael Jetter

"Foreshadowing Mars: Religiosity and conflict in pre-Enlightenment Europe"\*

Can religiosity alter societal propensity for large-scale organized violence? We introduce annual religiosity measures for several pre-Enlightenment European states with the shares of religious terminology in books and Christian names of newborns. To identify causality in predicting interstate warfare, we study locally visible solar eclipses – phenomena orthogonal to cultural, economic, environmental, and institutional characteristics that, in pre-Enlightenment Europe, were interpreted as supernatural, religious occurrences. We observe sizeable, positive religiosity effects. Empirical patterns support the idea of religiosity exacerbating ingroup-outgroup demarcations along religious trenches: Religiosity particularly predicts inter-religious warfare. Pre-Enlightenment city-year-level solar eclipses also predict Jewish persecution and witch trialing.

\*with Luke Barber and Tim Krieger

## Internal Seminar

Sarah Arndt

"Different Newspapers—Different Expectations"

I explore the extent to which the inflation signals emitted by different types of newspapers can explain household's inflation expectations in Germany. Constructing newspaper-specific indicators using the articles' text data and the large language model gpt-3.5-turbo-1106, I can find heterogeneity in the informativeness regarding the expectations of different socioeconomic groups, depending on the genre of the newspaper (i.e., tabloid vs. reputable newspapers). The tabloid's inflation expectation indicator performs better in predicting expectations of low income and lower education households, while the contrary holds true for the more serious newspapers. I then employ local projections to estimate the newspaper indices' responses to a monetary policy shock. This again reveals heterogeneity with the tabloid's sentiment displaying an immediate decrease while other newspaper's responses are smaller and lagged.

## Talks and Research Visits

**Christian Conrad** presented the paper "Long-Term Volatility Shapes the Stock Market's Sensitivity to News" (joint with Julius Schoelkopf and Nikoleta Tushteva) at the *CIREQ-CMP Econometrics Conference in Honor of Eric Ghysels*, Montreal, May 10-11, 2024.

**Jörg Oechssler** and **Katharina Momsen** attended the "*Jahrestagung des Sozialwissenschaftlichen Ausschusses im Verein für Socialpolitik*" in Mannheim from May 23 – 25.

**Katherina Momsen** gave a talk on "Demand for mental models" and **Peter Dürsch** gave a talk on "Growing awareness in the lab" at the *Jahrestagung des Sozialwissenschaftlichen Ausschusses im Verein für Socialpolitik* in Mannheim from May 23 – 25.

**Sarah Arndt** presented her paper "Different Newspapers - Different Expectations" at the *1st NEAR Conference on Narrative Economics* at Ruhr University Bochum on May 23, as well as at the MB seminar at the ifo Institute in Munich on May 29.

Editorial deadline for issue 14/2024 of the newsletter:  
Wednesday, June 5th, 2024, 12 p.m.  
[newsletter@awi.uni-heidelberg.de](mailto:newsletter@awi.uni-heidelberg.de)