



Upcoming Seminars

Wednesday, 08.01.2025

12.15-13.15

AWI room 00.010

Internal Seminar

Thomas Eife

"Quantifying the response scale bias in inflation expectations"

Wednesday, 08.01.2025

13.30-14.30

AWI room 01.030

Macro & Econometrics Seminar

Timo Dimitriadis

"Score Decompositions for Economic Forecasts: Intuition, Estimation, Inference and Applications"

Internal Seminar

Thomas Eife

"Quantifying the response scale bias in inflation expectations"

Households' responses in inflation surveys can be interpreted as a weighted average between their prior beliefs about inflation and the information (the signal) provided in the survey question. Using data from randomized experiments in which we systematically vary the signal, and imposing a specific functional form on households' updating process, we can estimate the average updating weights. Preliminary findings show that when households are asked for a point forecast in interval questions, the weight given to the intervals (the signal) is relatively small, around 0.1 to 0.2. Conversely, when households are asked about their uncertainty in probabilistic surveys, the weight of the signal is around 0.9, suggesting that the survey reveals minimal additional information about households' underlying beliefs.

Macro & Econometrics Seminar

Timo Dimitriadis

"Score Decompositions for Economic Forecasts: Intuition, Estimation, Inference and Applications"

Economic forecasts are regularly assessed by strictly consistent scoring functions such as the squared error for mean- or the tick loss for quantile-forecasts. While scoring functions allow for statistically meaningful rankings of overall forecast quality, they are silent about the specific deficiencies of the forecasts. We propose the use of score decompositions into miscalibration, discrimination and uncertainty terms to gain a deeper understanding of the underlying forecast performance. We provide asymptotic inference methods that allow for hypothesis testing and the construction of confidence intervals. These methods deliver more detailed insights into forecast performances in applications to mean forecasts for inflation rates and volatility forecasts in risk management.

New Publications

Dimitriadis, T., Patton Andrew J., Schmidt Patrick W. (2024): Testing Forecast Rationality for Measures of Central Tendency in The Review of Economics and Statistics [click to read the article](#) .

Malte Faber, Obituary: John Proops (1947–2024) – A Pioneer of ecological economics, Ecological Economics, November 2024, 108326. [click to read the article](#) .

Malte Faber, Reiner Manstetten, Marco Rudolf, Marc Frick, Mi-Yong Becker (2024), Sustainable Action in Economy and Society. Orientation for Change, Springer, SDG – Forschung, Konzepte, Lösungsansätze zur Nachhaltigkeit. [Sustainable Action in Economy and Society. Orientation for Change](#)

Talks and Research visits

Zeno Enders, together with Monika Lülf, organized the 5th HeiTüHo Workshop on International Financial Markets at the IWH, December 13/14. Morten Ravn (UCL) was keynote speaker, the program can be found here: www.uni-heidelberg.de/heitueho .

New Discussion Paper

Bell, Clive, Gersbach, Hans, and Haller, Hans, 'Mutual Insurance in the Village and Beyond,' IZA Discussion Paper, DP No. 17406, October 2024.



This is the last Newsletter issue for this year.

The Newsletter Office wishes Happy holidays and will be back from the 3rd of January.

For any issues or events during the winter break write to: newsletter@awi.uni-heidelberg.de .