



Upcoming Seminars

Monday, 05.05.2025

13.30-14.30

AWI room 00.010

Departmental Seminar

Krisztina Kis-Katos, Göttingen

"Cash Transfers and Violent Crime in
Indonesia"

(Host: Axel Dreher)

Wednesday, 07.05.2025

13.30-14.30

AWI room 01.030

Macro & Econometrics Seminar

Christoph Merkle, Aarhus

"AI Appreciation and Financial Advice"

(Host: Stefan Trautmann)

Departmental Seminar

Krisztina Kis-Katos

" Cash Transfers and Violent Crime in Indonesia " *

This study investigates the impact of Indonesia's conditional cash transfer (CCT) program—PKH—on violent crime. Exploiting data from a randomized controlled trial and administrative data from the nationwide program roll-out, we show that communities receiving access to PKH experienced an increase in violent crime. At the same time, we document substantial increases in idleness among non-targeted youth within beneficiary households. Such within-household spillovers from the CCT could explain the observed rise in violent crime. In contrast, there is no evidence of PKH increasing the rewards (monetary and non-monetary) from committing crime nor of reductions in the costs (material, psychic, or punishment-related) of engaging in crimes.

* Joint paper with Elías Cisneros, Krisztina Kis-Katos, Jan Priebe, Lennart Reiners.

Macro & Econometrics Seminar

Christoph Merkle

" AI Appreciation and Financial Advice "

Generative artificial intelligence (AI) is about to transform financial advice by enabling tailored solutions for investors at low cost. However, an aversion to artificial intelligence and lack of trust in recommendations generated by AI models could prove to be a major obstacle to their broad introduction. We test AI aversion in the context of financial advice in three incentivized experiments (N=1,176). Participants receive investment recommendations sourced either from ChatGPT or from a financial professional. The rate at which participants follow the recommendations and their satisfaction with the advice is consistently higher in the AI treatments. Observing intermediate investment outcomes weakens AI appreciation as outcomes distract from recommendation quality. Participants do not anticipate their AI appreciation, as a majority selects the financial professional in an experiment with free advisor choice. This suggests uncertainty surrounding AI capabilities, which is only resolved when seeing the actual recommendations.

Link to paper: <http://dx.doi.org/10.2139/ssrn.5186803>

Talks and Research visits

Christian Conrad organized the "Statistics in Finance" section, which included sessions on "Advances in Financial Modeling: Missing Data, Forecasting, and Risk Assessment" and "Risk Mitigation and Dependence Structures in Financial and Statistical Modeling," at the 7th DAGStat conference at Humboldt University Berlin, March 24-28, 2025;

As well as he organized a "Macro and Financial Econometrics" workshop at the International Academic Forum Heidelberg on April 23. Eric Ghysels, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, delivered a keynote lecture on "Quantum and Quantum-Inspired Maximum Likelihood Estimation and Filtering of Stochastic Volatility Models";

He also presented the paper "The Perils of Inflation Forecast Targeting" (co-authored with Zeno Enders and Gernot Müller) at the Workshop on Machine Learning Economic Forecasting and Nowcasting, Copenhagen Business School, April 25, 2025.

Sebastian Ebert gave an Interview on "Why saving is so hard" in Neue Osnabrücker Zeitung (NOZ) on April 13, 2025, online version [here](#);

He talked about methods of successful saving behavior, time-inconsistency, pre-commitment, and attention hurdles in the ARD Morgenmagazin in Cologne on April 22, 2025. One of the interviews is available online [here](#);

As well as he presented "Eliciting Stopping Times" in the Helsinki Finance Seminar of Aalto Business School and the Hanken School of Economics on April 7, 2025;

He concluded a visiting professorship, where he taught a Ph.D. level course on Behavioral Finance at the University of St. Gallen in March 2025; and he was quoted on principles of market timing and market efficiency in Neue Osnabrücker Zeitung (NOZ) on April 24, 2025 (online), see [here](#).