



Upcoming Seminars

Monday, 26.05.2025

13.30-14.30

AWI room 00.010

Departmental Seminars

Christoph Görtz, Uni Augsburg

" The Changing Nature of Technology
Shocks "

(Host: Zeno Enders)

Tuesday, 27.05.2025

14.00-15.00

AWI room 00.010

External Seminar

Simon Grant, Uni Australia

" Recursive Expected Uncertain Utility and
Neo-Additive Sources "

(Host: Jürgen Eichberger)

Wednesday, 28.05.2025

12.15-13.15

AWI room 00.010

Departmental Seminar

Dean Yang, Uni Michigan

" Ancient Epics in the Television Age: Mass
Media, Identity, and the Rise of Hindu
Nationalism in India "

Departmental Seminar

Christoph Görtz

" The Changing Nature of Technology Shocks "

We document changes to the pattern of technology shocks and their propagation in post-war U.S. data. Using an agnostic identification procedure, we show that the dominant shock driving total factor productivity (TFP) is akin to a diffusion or news shock and that shock transmission has changed over time. Specifically, the behavior of hours worked is notably different before and after the 1980s. In addition, the importance of technology shocks as a major driver of aggregate fluctuations has increased over time. They play a dominant role in the second subsample, but much less so in the first. We build a rich structural model to explain these new facts. Using impulse response matching, we find that a change in the stance of monetary policy and the nature of intangible capital accumulation both played dominant roles in accounting for the differences in TFP shock propagation.

External Seminar

Simon Grant

" Recursive Expected Uncertain Utility and Neo-Additive Sources "

I extend the Expected Uncertain Utility model to a dynamic setting by considering preferences over information decision problems in which a decision-maker's choice from a menu is contingent on the realization of a signal. Information decision problems are evaluated recursively (plans of action are evaluated by backward induction). Conditional evaluations are model consistent (they encode the same risk and ambiguity attitudes as his static preferences) and consequentialist (they are invariant to what choice might have been made had the signal's realization been different). Moreover, choices guided by these conditional evaluations will be dynamically consistent (the decision-maker never has a strict incentive not to follow through with any plan of action that is ex ante optimal).

Departmental Seminar

Dean Yang

" Ancient Epics in the Television Age: Mass Media, Identity, and the Rise of Hindu Nationalism in India " *

This study examines the long-term social and political impacts of mass media exposure to religious content in India. We study the impact of "Ramayan," the massively popular adaptation of the Hindu epic televised in 1987-88. To identify causal effects, we conduct difference-in-difference analyses and exploit variation in TV signal strength driven by location of TV transmitters and topographical features inhibiting electromagnetic TV signal propagation. We find that areas with higher exposure to Ramayan (higher TV signal strength when the show aired) experienced significant cultural and political changes. First, we document a strengthening of religious identity among Hindus: parents in these areas became more likely to give their newborn sons traditionally Hindu names, and households showed increased adherence to orthodox Hindu dietary practices. In the short term, this cultural shift led to an increase in Hindu-Muslim communal violence through 1992. Over the longer term, through 2000, the Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) became more likely to win state assembly elections. Analyses of changes in local TV signal strength in India over decades indicate that these effects are not due to general access to TV but are due to exposure to the Ramayan TV show in 1987-1988. Our findings reveal that media portrayal of religious narratives can have lasting effects on cultural identity, intergroup violence, and electoral outcomes.

* Joint work with Resuf Ahmed, Paul Brimble, Akhila Kovvuri, and Alessandro Saia.