



Master Seminar – Winter Term 2026/2027

Current Issues in Urban and Regional Economics

- Successful completion of the seminar requires the submission of a seminar paper (15 pages +/- 10%) in English or German and a presentation (approx. 45 minutes, including the discussion).
- The goal of this seminar paper is to independently prepare an economic analysis of the respective underlying research paper in your own words. For each topic, additional instructions are provided to clarify the scope of the seminar paper.
- You are also expected to prepare a handout of a maximum of 2 pages, which summarises the core results of your presentation and your suggestions for the general discussion of the topic. This handout can be formulated in keywords.
- The deadline for the written seminar papers will be in early/mid December 2026 and will be announced later. (Submission of the seminar paper in PDF format via e-mail.)
- The seminar will be held as an in-person block event in mid/end January 2027. The exact date will be announced later. We expect that you actively participate in the discussion of all seminar topics.
- The seminar paper and presentation (including discussion) account for 60 percent and 40 percent, respectively, of the final grade.



Seminar topics

Topic 1: The role of non-homothetic housing demand in urban models

Robert-Nicoud, Frédéric, Pierre-Philippe Combes, Gilles Duranton & Laurent Gobillon (2026): A Unified Urban Model with Non-Homothetic Housing Demand. NBER Working Paper 34876.

Topic 2: Place-based policies: An economic analysis

Fajgelbaum, Pablo D. & Cecile Gaubert (2025): *Place-Based Policies: Lessons From Theory*. NBER Working Paper 33517.

Topic 3: An economic analysis of road congestion

Duranton, Gilles & Matthew A. Turner (2011): *The Fundamental Law of Road Congestion: Evidence from US Cities*. American Economic Review, 101(6), 2616-2652.

Topic 4: The effect of work from home on the spatial structure of cities

Delventhal, Matthew J., Eunjee Kwon & Andrii Parkhomenko (2022): JUE Insight: How do cities change when we work from home? Journal of Urban Economics, 127, 103331.