

BSc Seminar: Labor Economics

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Content

In this seminar, students will learn about state-of-the-art research in labor economics. This year's seminar will focus on experimental research in labor economics. Over the past decades, experiments have become an essential tool in modern labor economics. Researchers, companies, governments, and non-governmental organizations increasingly adopt experimental methods for an evidence-based approach to research, human resource management, and policy design and evaluation.

In the seminar, students will independently and critically analyze a scientific experiment in selected sub-fields of labor economics. Topics of the seminar include:

- Education and human capital
- Job search and labor supply
- Experiments in firms
- Discrimination
- Labor Market Policy

Students learn how to present the corresponding research results both in writing and orally, and to critically engage with the work of other seminar participants.

Prerequisites

A strong interest in labor economics and good knowledge of statistics and econometrics are important for successful participation in this seminar. It is also recommended to familiarize yourself with the content of the key qualification "Wissenschaftliches Arbeiten" in advance.

Course Procedures and Timeline

- Block 1: Introduction to the course, topic assignment, and seminar techniques
 - o 22.10.2024 at 14:15 (SR 319): Kick-off meeting and introduction
 - o 29.10.2024 at 14:15 (SR 319): Seminar techniques and topic assignment
- Block 2: students work independently on their term paper, individual appointments for consultation
 - o 29.10. – 08.12.2024: Writing period
→ Term papers must be handed in before 09.12.2024
- Block 3: seminar presentations (block seminar)
 - o Tentative date for seminar presentations: 17.12.24 12:00 – 18:00
 - o Attendance of the full workshop is mandatory

Grading

Grading will be based on a term paper (approx. 15 pages) and presentation (approx. 15 minutes), weighted 3:2

Course Topics and Preliminary Reading List

A detailed reading list will be provided in the beginning of the course. The following handbook chapter provides a valuable introduction to the course topics:

- List, J.A., Rasul, I. (2011): *Field Experiments in Labor Economics*, in: Ashenfelter & Card (eds.) *Handbook of Labor Economics* Volume 4, Part A, Elsevier, p. 103-228.