**FRIEDRICH-ALEXANDER
UNIVERSITÄT
ERLANGEN-NÜRNBERG**

**FACHBEREICH WIRTSCHAFTS-
UND SOZIALWISSENSCHAFTEN**

**Lehrstuhl für Volkswirtschaftslehre,
insbesondere Finanzwissenschaft**

Prof. Dr. Thiess Büttner

Seminar Public Economics 2

Joint Seminar:

Prof. Dr. Thiess Büttner, Prof. Dr. Rincke, Prof. Dr. Wrede

Contents:

During the seminar, participants will discuss a broad range of topics. A first set of topics address questions related to spatial and public economics (Prof. Wrede). A second set relates to public economics and behavioural economics (Prof. Rincke). Finally, the seminar also deals with public economics (Prof. Büttner). The list of topics below provides more details, including references and brief comments on the research questions covered in the respective literature.

The seminar has two consecutive parts. In the first part, students write a thesis (15 pages) under the guidance of their advisor. In an introductory session, students learn about the principles of scientific work and the scope of analysis that is expected. The thesis elaborates on the literature (see the list of topics for the main article(s) to be covered). Students are expected to search for additional literature and then work independently on their topic. Advisors provide close guidance during this process. The second part consists of a two-day seminar (Janurary 28/29 2020) of students' presentations. Before preparing their presentations, supervisors will provide students with detailed feedback on their thesis. Each presenter has 25 minutes for her/his presentation, followed by 25 minutes of discussion.

Further Information:

Topics by our chair are printed below. Please see the website of the Chair for Economic Policy (Prof. Dr. Rincke): http://wirtschaftspolitik.rw.uni-erlangen.de/teaching/WS2021/seminar-public-economics-2-course-description-2020.pdf

Students who want to participate should express their interest by submitting a participation form (see webpage of Prof. Rincke's chair) to david.hardt@fau.de by August 3, 2020.

For further information, please contact David Hardt (david.hardt@fau.de). The block seminar is set for January 28/29, 2021. The deadline to hand in the thesis is January 11,2021.

Block 3: Public economics (Prof. Büttner)

1. Government performance – the role of politicians

Q: Does higher remuneration of public officials improve government performance?

Gagliarducci, S., Nannicini, T. (2013). Do better paid politicians perform better? Disentangling incentives from selection. Journal of the European Economic Association 11(2): 369-398.

Ferraz, C., Finan F. (2009). Motivating Politicians: The Impacts of Monetary Incentives on Quality and Performance. NBER Working Paper No. 14906.

2. The prevention of VAT fraud

Q: What are the pros and cons of reverse charging in tackling VAT fraud?

Keen, M., Smith, S. (2006). VAT fraud and evasion: What do we know and what can be done? National Tax Journal 59(4): 861-887.

Sinn, H. W., Gebauer, A., Parsche, R. (2004). The Ifo Institute's model for reducing VAT fraud: payment first, refund later. In CESifo forum 5(2): 30-34. München: ifo Institut für Wirtschaftsforschung an der Universität München.

3. Pricing externalities – the case of public roads

Q: Are congestion charges effective in correcting externalities associated with road usage?

Green, C. P., Heywood J. S., Navarro M. (2016). Traffic Accidents and the London Congestion Charge. Journal of Public Economics 113: 11-22.

Gibson, M., Carnovale M. (2015). The effects of road pricing on driver behaviour and air pollution. Journal of Urban Economics 89: 62-73.

4. Fiscal rules

Q: What are the effects of constitutional-level balanced budget rules on fiscal outcomes?

Asatryan, Z., Castellón, C., Stratmann, T. (2018). Balanced budget rules and fiscal outcomes: Evidence from historical constitutions. Journal of Public Economics 167: 105-119.