

Information about the Master Seminar 2025

New Insights in Behavioral Economics

Content:

Initially, behavioral economics was mainly successfully applied in the field of finance. In the meantime, however, other fields of economics have also benefited from the application of behavioral economic research. In this seminar, we will look at six of these fields – public economics, development economics, law and economics, labor market economics, health economics, and organizational economics – and discuss current and possible future developments.

The seminar consists of two parts.

Part 1

In part 1, selected parts of the book edited by Peter Diamond and Hannu Vartiainen "*Behavioral economics and its applications*", Princeton University Press, 2007, will be presented by participants and discussed in class. In this book the authors have argued for a much greater use of behavioral ideas in the six fields. That means, from the third (April 28) to the fifth seminar date (May 12) we will talk about two of the six areas of economic applications: April 28 – public economics and development economics, May 5 – law and economics and labor market economics, and May 12 – health economics and organizational economics. For all these three dates in-person presence (room G22A-208) is required.

At the second seminar date on April 14 at 11:15 a.m. there will be a presentation of the organization of the seminar. Each participant will be assigned a specific part of the book, which serves as the basis for his/her presentation in part 1 and for his/her seminar paper in part 2. Also, for this second seminar date in-person presence (room G22A-208) is required.

Please use the first seminar date on April 7 to familiarize yourself with the book and read the introductory chapter. There will be no meeting at the first seminar date.

Part 2

In part 2, each participant will write a seminar paper (12 pages excluding cover sheet, references, and appendices) and give a scientific presentation (30 minutes) on how some of the arguments put forward in the assigned part of the book should be assessed in the light of the current state of research. That is, the assigned part of the book serves as a starting point for each participant's own research of more recent economic literature and the critical discussion of arguments.

Each participant must submit a .pdf file with an **outline for his or her paper including the literature sources** used for the paper by email (jeannette.brosig-koch@ovgu.de) by Friday, **May 16, at 9.00 a.m.** at the latest. You will receive feedback on this outline at a consultation appointment to be arranged individually.

The .pdf file of the **seminar paper** must then be submitted as a .pdf file by email (see above) by Friday, **June 6, at 9:00 a.m.** at the latest. A general guideline for writing a seminar paper can be found here: https://bsp.ovgu.de/bsp_media/PDFS/Leitfaden+Abschlussarbeiten_english.pdf.

The .pdf file of the **scientific presentation** must be submitted by Friday, **June 13, at 9.00 a.m.** at the latest by email (see above).

The **scientific presentations** and discussions of the seminar papers will take place on the following seminar dates starting on June 16 in room G22A-208. For all presentation dates in-person presence (room G22A-208) is required.

Assessment:

For the module there is a module-related examination which covers the following forms of examination: writing (70%), presenting (20%), participating in discussions (10%).