



Seminar in Urban and Regional Economics (33544)

“If you look at the map of the United States there is all that red in the middle, where Trump won. [...] But what the map doesn't show you is that I won the places that represent two thirds of America's GDP.”

(Hillary Clinton at the India Today Conclave 2018)

Even within countries with similar institutions and culture economic activity is often clustered in some regions and cities. This concentration has far reaching consequences. It contributes to skyrocketing rents and populism, but also to the spread of ideas and the creation of wealth.

The aim of this seminar is to discuss advanced literature on regional and urban economics, especially related to the question why economic activity is clustered in some regions, when in others there is hardly any. One of the key concepts in spatial economics is the idea of agglomeration, i.e. the fact that populous regions see more specialisation and division of labour and therefore more productivity.

The seminar is structured around theoretical and empirical studies. We are going to discuss the theoretical foundations for regional and urban economics, channels of agglomeration (local externalities and matching) and factors of dispersion of economic activities. Other topics are the historic persistence of regional economic activity, regional economics in the developing world and the political implications of this field.

Lecturer

Philipp Meier

Target group, requirements and credit points

- The seminar is suited for Master students.
 - Economics students: Individueller Schwerpunkt (6 CP)
 - IWG students: Individueller Schwerpunkt (6 CP)
 - P&E students: Specialization Module (6 CP)

- Students from other programmes such as H&E, GÖ etc. are encouraged to approach me, if they would like to participate.
- Active participation in the introductory lecture, the Stata exercise and the seminar is required.
- You have to...
 - ...design a video of a choropleth map via Stata (and a fellow student).
 - ...present your topic in the seminar session (approximately 30 minutes including questions).
 - ...lead the discussion about the presentation of your teammate.
 - ...hand in a seminar paper of 10 to 15 pages until March 19th. An earlier submission is of course possible.

Organisation

Currently (18th of August 2022) the university administration wants to organise the upcoming winter semester via classroom teaching. If we are about to switch to online teaching all participants will be informed via Elearning.

The introductory lecture will take place in S 66, RW I, at the 27th of October 2022 from 10:15 to 12:00 o'clock. In the following weeks you will have to take an exercise on how to create choropleth maps at the 25th of November 14:15 to 17:00 o'clock in CIP-Pool S 60 RW I. Students, who have never dealt with Stata can participate in a crash course at the 18th of November 14:15 to 17:00 o'clock in CIP-Pool S66 RW I.

The main part of presentation and discussion will take place at the 8th and 9th of December 2022 (9:15 to 17:30 o'clock). All course-related questions should be sent to philipp.meier@uni-bayreuth.de. The language of the seminar is English.

Application, deadlines and grading

- Master students who want to participate in this seminar have to enrol twice. You have to **register for a topic via E-Learning** and to **enrol for the exam on CmLife or CampusOnline**.

- The seminar has 20 topics, which are assigned by first come, first served. If there is no more capacity left, you have the possibility to enrol for the waiting list on E-Learning.
- In the interest of fairness, please withdraw both applications in case you do not want to participate. Otherwise students who would like to participate possibly cannot take part.
- Each student has to enrol for the seminar in CAMPUS-Online until Thursday, 27th of October 2022, 23:59 o'clock. If, after being enrolled, you do not participate during the rest of the seminar, you will be graded with 5.0.
- In case you use slides for your presentation, you have to send them in until 19th of January 2022, 23:59 o'clock, as well.
- Deadline for handing in your written work: 20th of March 2022, 11:59 o'clock, via [Turnitin](#) as a pdf-version. The course number is 30547211 and the enrolment key is 2021.
- In order to pass the seminar, it is mandatory to present your results, answer questions in a short discussion after your presentation and write a seminar paper (please follow the formal requirements [here](#)). Your final grade will be determined by your written work (two thirds), presentation and discussion (one third).

Literature

Each student has to choose one specific paper addressing specific issues of the seminar topic. In case you want to look up details about e.g. empirical methods, theoretical models and interpretation of results, you can use:

- **Wooldridge, Jeffrey M.** 2010. "Econometric Analysis Of Cross Section and Panel Data". 2nd ed. Cambridge (MA): MIT Press.
- **Brakman, Steven, Harry Garretsen and Charles van Marrewijk.** 2020. "An Introduction to Geographical and Urban Economics". 3rd ed. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Topics

General Regional Economics:

- **Forslid, Rikard and Gianmarco Ottaviano.** 2003. "An analytically solvable core-periphery model" *Journal of Economic Geography*; Vol.3: pp. 229-240
- **Roback, Jennifer.** 1982. "Wages, Rents, and the Quality of Life" *Journal of Political Economy*; Vol.90(6): pp. 1257-1278
- **Diamond, Rebecca.** 2016. "The Determinants and Welfare Implications of US Workers' Diverging Location Choices by Skill: 1980-2000" *American Economic Review*; Vol.106(3): pp. 479-524

General Urban Economics:

- **Kahn, Matthew and Randall Walsh.** 2015. "Cities and the Environment" in Gilles Duranton; J. Vernon Henderson and William C. Strange (eds.) *Handbook of Regional and Urban Economics*; Vol.5: pp. 405-465
- **Ahfeldt, Gabriel; Stephen Redding; Daniel Sturm and Nikolaus Wolf.** 2015. "The Economics of Density: Evidence from the Berlin Wall" *Econometrica*; Vol.83(6): pp. 2127-2189

Agglomeration through local Externalities:

- **Duranton, Gilles and Diego Puga.** 2004. "Micro-Foundations of Urban Agglomeration Economies" in J. Vernon Henderson, Jacques-François Thisse (eds.) *Handbook of Urban and Regional Economics*; Vol.4: pp. 2063-2117
- **Greenstone, Michael; Richard Hornbeck and Enrico Moretti.** 2010. "Identifying Agglomeration Spillovers: Evidence from Winners and Loser of Large Plant Openings" *Journal of Political Economy*; Vol.118(3): pp. 536-598

Agglomeration through Matching:

- **Moretti, Enrico.** 2011. "Local Labor Markets" in David Card and Orley Ashenfelter (eds.) *Handbook of Labor Economics*; Vol. 4B: pp. 1237-1313

- **Combes, Pierre-Philippe and Gilles Duranton.** 2006. "Labour pooling, labour poaching, and spatial clustering" *Regional Science and Urban Economics*; Vol. 36: pp. 1-28

Dispersion and Congestion:

- **Combes, Pierre-Philippe; Gilles Duranton and Laurent Gobillon.** 2019. "The Costs of Agglomeration: House and Land Prices in French Cities" *Review of Economic Studies*; Vol. 86: pp. 1556-1589
- **Ambrus, Attila; Erica Field and Robert Gonzalez.** 2020. "Loss in the Time of Cholera: Long-Run Impact of a Disease Epidemic on the Urban Landscape" *American Economic Review*; Vol. 110(2): pp. 475-525

Long-Run Factors of Spatial Economics:

- **Bleakley, Hoyt and Jeffrey Lin.** 2012. "Portage and Path Dependence" *The Quarterly Journal of Economics*; Vol. 127: pp. 587-644
- **Ehrlich, Maximilian and Tobias Seidel.** 2018. "The Persistent Effects of Place-Based Policy: Evidence from the West-German Zonenrandgebiet" *American Economic Journal*; Vol. 10(4): pp. 344-374
- **Glaeser, Edward L.; Sari Pekkala Kerr and William R. Kerr.** 2015. "Entrepreneurship and Urban Growth: An Empirical Assessment with Historical Mines" *The Review of Economics and Statistics*; Vol. 97(2): pp. 498-520

Regional and Urban Economics of the Developing World:

- **Maystadt, Jean-François and Gilles Duranton.** 2019. "The development push of refugees: evidence from Tanzania" *Journal of Economic Geography*; Vol. 19(2): pp. 299-334
- **Henderson, J. Vernon; Adam Storeygard; and David N. Weil.** 2012. "Measuring Economic Growth from Outer Space" *American Economic Review*; Vol. 102(2): pp. 994-1028
- **Harari, Mariaflavia.** 2020. "Cities in Bad Shape: Urban Geometry in India" *American Economic Review*; Vol. 110(8): pp. 2377-2421

Spatial Economics and Policy:

- **Falck, Oliver; Stephan Heblich and Stefan Kipar.** 2010. "Industrial innovation: Direct evidence from a cluster-oriented policy" *Regional Science and Urban Economics*; Vol. 40: pp. 574-582
- **Dippel, Christian; Robert Gold; Stephan Heblich; and Rodrigo Pinto.** 2021. "The Effect of Trade on Workers and Voters" *Working Paper*
- **Allcott, Hunt; Rebecca Diamond; Jean-Pierre Dubé; Jessie Handbury; Ilya Rahkovsky and Molly Schnell.** 2019. "Food Deserts and the Causes of Nutritional Inequality" *The Quarterly Journal of Economics*; Vol 134(4): pp. 1793-1844