

Seminar: Wage and Income Inequality

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General Structure

Applications for the seminar should be sent to eva.hank@iwh-halle.de by 15 March 2017. In this email you should state your preferences for three of the topics on the literature list (descending from most to least preferred). The seminar will begin with an introductory session on 5 April, 2017. If you do not come to this session you will lose permission to take part in the seminar. In this first session, each student will be assigned one of the papers and is expected to write a short seminar paper (max. 8 pages) about this paper in the course of the semester. Moreover, students will hold two presentations. One presentation is about the own paper (max. 25 min.) mainly discussing what the seminar paper will be about (comments from seminar participants should help presenters to improve their later submitted seminar papers). This presentation should be sent to eva.hank@iwh-halle.de by May 5 (before midnight of that day). Then, we will send one presentation from another student to each participant that she will critically discuss in her second presentation (max. 10 min.) on the basis of what she has learned herself from the paper the presentation is about. Hence, each student is expected to be an “expert” on two papers of the literature list. This second presentation should be sent to eva.hank@iwh-halle.de by the evening of 16 May. We will meet again on 17 May for our presentation session (depending on the number of participants there may be a second meeting for presentations, probably on May 18). Seminar papers are expected to be submitted by 28 May (before midnight of that day) to eva.hank@iwh-halle.de. The final grade will comprise two separately graded parts: the seminar paper (2/3) and the two presentations (1/3). Note that you only pass the seminar if each part is passed separately (e.g., in case that you do not hand in your presentations in time and, hence, this part is graded with 5.0, you cannot pass the seminar anymore).

Details on presentation and seminar paper

The core presentation follows mainly the (prospective) structure of your seminar paper, should last no more than 25 min (binding constraint!) and is followed by the discussion of the second student (max. 10 minutes). After that, there will be time for discussion with all seminar participants. We will organize a projector and a laptop, so you are expected to send both your presentations to eva.hank@iwh-halle.de on time (see instructions above).

The seminar paper consists of max. 8 pages (times new roman, 12ppt, 1.5 line spacing, 2cm margins), is written in full sentences (i.e. not bullet points), and should generally contain the following aspects:

- Motivation of the topic (why do we care?) and its contribution to the literature
- Empirical approach including a short description of the data and measurement issues
- Summary of the main results and implications (what can we learn from the paper?)
- Limitations/shortcomings of the paper and directions for future research

Please write in a stringent and logically consistent way. Express your thoughts as concise as possible, be unambiguous, and take care of a good structure of your writings. E.g. one paragraph is one thought and should have at least three sentences and at most two thirds of a page. If you feel unsure, read e.g. "The Elements of Style" by William Strunk. The final seminar paper has to be submitted in pdf format via email to eva.hank@iwh-halle.de by May 28 (before midnight of that day).