

Topics on Demographic Transition and the Economics of Aging

On the 10th of July from 14h to 15h the presentation of this Seminar course will take place in the room 106, in Amalienstr. 73 A.

Students can expect a small introduction on to the topics of the Seminar Course, on the main literature as background and on the evaluation criteria.

Content:

In this seminar you should expect to read and research on topics related to the demographic transition, population dynamics, individual behavior and institutional and policy design. One part of the students will make their essay on causes for demographic transition and its effect on the main macroeconomic variables. The other part will work on topics related to the effects of population aging on today's society and pension systems. Here we will explore different types of individual behavior on labour supply, retirement decisions and savings and, additionally, pension systems' design.

Students will receive an assignment for a research article that they have to summarize and put into context in an essay. The research article can be either empirical or a mix of theory and empirical application.

In particular, they should be able to explain carefully the main subject on the paper and its context in the light of the related literature; show the results and interpret them in a detailed way; and critically analyse whether the results are convincing, and which dimensions could be further explored.

In the end students are expected to make a presentation about their essays and on a general appreciation of the paper.

Important Dates:

Preliminary Meeting: 10.07.2017 (14h-15h) in room 106, Amalienstr. 73A

Working period for the term paper: 17.10.2017 to 14.11.2017

Seminar day: 01.12.2017 and 02.12.2017 (more information will follow close to the Seminar's date)

Evaluation Criteria:

Essay:

- *Careful introduction and summary of the main subject on the paper;*
- *Capacity to relate to existent literature;*
- *Explain the technique used and the perspective of the author;*
- *Show and interpret the results critically and in detail;*
- *Make a critical analysis on the method used, on whether the results are convincing;*
- *Ability to suggest and contribute to some feature of the paper;*
- *General appreciation of the paper;*
- *Main writing skills will also be evaluated: creativity, critical analysis, coherence to expose your ideas, the structure of the essay and correctness of writing are highly valued;*

Presentation:

- *Presentation of main findings in a dynamic and interactive way;*
- *Explanation of the purpose of the paper, main outcomes of the paper and your own critique;*
- *Fluency of the speech, coherence and structure are highly valued;*
- *Correctness on answering some questions on the work done;*
- *Should not be longer than ca. 20 minutes;*

Some main book references:

Barr, N., and Diamond, P., 2010. Pension Reform, A Short Guide, Oxford University Press

Galor, O., 2011. Unified Growth Theory Princeton, Princeton University Press.

Piggott, J. and Woodland, A. (Eds.) 2016, Handbook of the Economics of Population Aging, Elsevier

Gruber, J., and Wise, D., 1999, Social Security and Retirement around the World, NBER

Some useful papers:

Chan, S. & Stevens, A. H., 2008. What You Don't Know Can't Help You: Pension Knowledge and Retirement Decision Making. The Review of Economics and Statistics, Volume 90, pp. 253-266.

Bloom, D., Canning, D., Lubet A., 2015. "Global Population Aging: Facts, Challenges, Solutions and Perspectives", Daedalus, Journal of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, 144 (2).

Boersch-Supan A., 2013. "Myths, scientific evidence and economic policy in an aging world", The Journal of the Economics of Aging 1-2, pp. 3-15.

Boersch-Supan, A., Bucher-Koenen, T., Kutlu-Koc, V., Goll, N., 2017. "Dangerous Flexibility-Retirement Reforms Reconsidered". MEA Discussion Papers 03-2017.

Boersch-Supan, A., Haertl, K., Leite, D. N., 2016. "Social security and public insurance". In: Piggott, J. and Woodland, A. (Eds.), Handbook of the Economics of Population Aging, Elsevier.

Cervellati, M., and Sunde U., 2015. The effect of life expectancy on education and population dynamics, Empirical Economics, 48(4): 1445–1478.

Cervellati, M., and Sunde U., 2011. "Life expectancy and economic growth: the role of the demographic transition," Journal of Economic Growth, 16(2), 99-133.

Diamond, P., 1965. "National Debt in a Neoclassical Growth Model". American Economic Review 55 (5), 1126-1150.

Fehr, H., Kallweit, M. & Kindermann, F., 2013. Should pensions be progressive?. European Economic Review, pp. 94-116.

Galor, O., 2012. The demographic transition: Causes and consequences. Cliometrica 6, 1-28.

Galor, O. and Weil D., 2000: Population, Technology, and Growth: From Malthusian Stagnation to the Demographic Transition and Beyond, American Economic Review , 90(4), 807-828.

Lagerlof, N.-P., 2003. Gender equality and long-run growth, Journal of Economic Growth 8 (4): 403-426.

Lehr, C. S., 2009. Evidence on the Demographic Transition, Review of Economics and Statistics 91 (4): 871-877.

Murphy, T. E., 2015. Old Habits Die Hard (Sometimes): What Can DÈpartement Heterogeneity Tell Us About the French Fertility Decline? Journal of Economic Growth 20:177-222

Murtin, F., 2009. On the demographic transition. OECD.

Queisser, M. & Whitehouse, E., 2006. Neutral or Fair? Actuarial Concepts and Pension-System Design. OECD Social, Employment and Migration Working Papers No. 40.

Sonnet, A., Olsen, H. & Manfredi, T., 2014. Towards More Inclusive Ageing and Employment Policies: The Lessons from France, The Netherlands, Norway and Switzerland. De Economist, 315-339.