

PROJECT SEMINAR:

EXPERIMENTAL ECONOMICS

(WINTER TERM 2017/2018, 4 SEMESTER HOURS PER WEEK)

Course description:

The seminar is intended to help the participants develop hands-on experience in designing and conducting economic experiments and analyzing the data. In particular, participants will design and conduct an experiment of their own to address a research question of their choice. The seminar is organized around the four basic steps of an experimental study:

- Theory and hypothesis development
- Experimental design (including instructions)
- Experiment (including software, recruitment, pilot study)
- Data analysis and conclusions

Prerequisites:

Basic knowledge of game theory and experimental economics is strongly recommended.

First meeting and organization:

Date: October 9th, 2017

Time: 4.00 p.m.

Place: Essen, Weststadttürme (Berliner Platz 6-8), room B.08.02

The first meeting is intended to provide you with further information about the seminar and to give you an opportunity to subscribe for participation.

Literature:

Frechette, G. R., A. Schotter (2015): *The Handbook of Experimental Economic Methodology*, Oxford University Press.

Roth, A. E., J. H. Kagel (1995): *The Handbook of Experimental Economics*, Princeton University Press.

Roth, A. E., J. H. Kagel (2016): *The Handbook of Experimental Economics Volume 2*, Princeton University Press.

Vulkan, N., A. E. Roth, Z. Neeman (2013): *The Handbook of Market Design*, Oxford University Press.

Information about the Essen Laboratory for Experimental Economics (elfe):

<https://www.elfe.wiwi.uni-due.de/faq/>

(Preliminary) Schedule:

The total number of participants is limited to 12. Thus, we have a maximum of four groups, each consisting of 3 participants (participant A, participant B, and participant C). All meetings start at 4.00 p.m. and end at about 7.00 p.m.

09.10.17 First meeting

16.10.17 Consultation-hour: Preparation of an own research idea (see below)

23.10.17 Presentation and discussion of research ideas

(Each participant is required to present an own idea for an experimental study. The presentation should last for about 10 minutes and should refer to the following questions: What should be investigated and why? In addition, three references should be mentioned, which include theoretical, empirical, and/or experimental evidence relevant for the research idea. After the presentation and discussion of ideas, (depending on the number of seminar groups at most) four ideas are selected and seminar groups are formed.

30.10.17 Group meetings (preparation of literature overview and hypotheses, see below)

02.11.17 *Paper submission* (not later than 4 p.m.)

(Participants “A“ submit a paper which consists of four pages at maximum excluding cover sheet, reference list, and appendices. The paper includes a review of relevant literature and the hypotheses, which should be tested in the experiment.)

06.11.17 Paper presentation

(Participants “A” present the paper to the class and defend it. The presentation should last for about 20 to 30 minutes. The content of the papers is discussed by all participants.)

13.11.17 Group meetings (preparation of experiment design and instructions, see below)

16.11.17 *Paper submission* (not later than 4 p.m.)

(Participants “B“ submit a paper which consists of four pages at maximum excluding cover sheet, reference list, and appendices. The paper includes a description of the experimental design. The instructions for the experiment have to be included in the appendix.)

20.11.17 Paper presentation

(Participants “B” present the paper to the class and defend it. The presentation should last for about 20 to 30 minutes. The content of the papers and instructions are discussed by all participants.)

After presenting and discussing the papers, one of the designs is selected for the experiment conducted in the seminar. Then the tasks for preparing and running the experiment are assigned to seminar groups.

- 27.11.17** **Preparation of the experiment I**
(Place: Essen Laboratory for Experimental Economics)
- 04.12.17** **Preparation of the experiment II**
(Place: Essen Laboratory for Experimental Economics)
- 11.12.17** **Pilot experiment**
(Place: Essen Laboratory for Experimental Economics)
- 18.12.17** **Evaluation of the pilot experiment and preparation of the experiment III**
(Place: Essen Laboratory for Experimental Economics)
- 08.01.18** **Preparation of the experiment IV**
(Place: Essen Laboratory for Experimental Economics)
- 15.01.18** **Experiment**
(Place: Essen Laboratory for Experimental Economics)
- 22.01.18 Group meetings (preparation of data analysis/conclusions, see below)
- 25.01.18 *Paper submission* (not later than 4 p.m.)
(Participants “C” submit a paper which consists of four pages at maximum excluding cover sheet, reference list, and appendices. The paper includes the results of the data analysis and conclusions.)
- 29.01.18** **Paper presentation**
(Participants “C” present the paper to the class and defend it. The presentation should last for about 20 to 30 minutes. The content of the papers are discussed by all participants.)