

Master Economics & Public Economics

Sommersemester 2020

Vertiefungsseminar: Aktuelle Forschungsfragen der Mikroökonomie: Economics of IP and Patents

Dozent

Uwe Dulleck
Professor fo Economics, QUT; Hon. Prof of Behavioural Economics, ANU
Vertretung (LS Bester, SS 2020)

Vorbesprechung / Einfuehrung

Termin	22.04.2020
Art der Veranstaltung	Zoom Meeting
Link	https://qut.zoom.us/j/7797375660

[Kurslink](#)

Blackboardkurs

Kursbezeichnung	IP and Patents (SoSe 2020)
Kurs-ID:	WIWISS_V_104110_20Sa
Passwort	ohne

Anmeldung

Sie können sich per Vorbesprechung in folgendem Zeitraum verbindlich für das Seminar anmelden: **17.04.2020-24.04.2020**. Dafür senden Sie einfach eine E-Mail mit Ihrem vollen **Namen und Ihrer Matrikelnummer** an mich (uwe.dulleck@qut.edu.au).

Inhalt / Ablauf / Themen

We will cover economic approaches to study the Economics of Intellectual Property and Patents. We

will discuss arguments for and against the current IP and patent system, what are the reasons behind the system, whether it succeeds to encourage innovation and where the system creates inefficiencies.

ABLAUF

Seminar: Economics of Patents – Special delivery (see also the Blackboard page)

While I will miss the direct interaction, a seminar may be an easier course to deliver in a time when we have to avoid direct contact.

I suggest the following format. As planned, we will have **two or three presentations** that I will prepare and deliver online. I will provide links and times on blackboard. The lectures will be recorded and provided on blackboard. The lectures give you a first introduction and an overview of the topic and two areas where I work currently either with patent data or where I look at how economics may provide new insights into understanding the patent system.

I suggest I will provide these first lectures within the first two weeks of the semester – keep an eye open for the times – if you can attend, please do so, as this will make the delivery more interesting and useful. Your questions and reactions help to make sure that fewer questions are left open.

For **the seminar part, we can discuss two formats** of delivery – which one we choose will be discussed in the lectures during the first two weeks.

First option: We meet online for the seminar sessions. I would suggest we block the sessions – maybe 3 blocks of 4 hours or so. Each of you should present his or her part which we then discuss – the online tools should allow us to do so. As usual you need to prepare a seminar essay (Seminararbeit) – I would like that you have a draft ready before the presentations – so that I can have a look at it. These presentations will be a little shorter than a normal presentation – to pay attention to someone presenting for 90 minutes is hard if you meet in person, online it is even harder. So presentations should be 15-20 minutes followed by a Q&A (questions and answers). Additionally, I would like to see that you critically discuss in writing the draft of the essay of one of your colleagues. I will have a first look at the essay as well and provide feedback. Before you hand in the final version, you will get a chance to review and edit your essay – you will receive the feedback from your colleague and from me.

Your mark will depend on the final essay, your presentation, and the comments you provided to your colleagues in the written feedback but also during presentations.

The alternative, *second option:* We avoid the blocked sessions and use video recordings. In this case, I would ask you to prepare a video recording of your presentation (either you pre-record with your iPhone or you can look for other tools and apps to even have short clips in the video – I leave that to you). These would be shared among the group and we would capture comments on each other's videos in an online format (I hope that blackboard provides an option). I would hope that with the availability of the video, you will also have a draft of your essay. I would again expect from you some written feedback on the draft of a colleague's essay. You will have a chance to edit your draft version. Marks are similarly as above awarded based on the final essay, your video presentation, and the feedback you provided on videos and in writing to your colleagues. I look forward to this very different type of a seminar. But I am sure we will succeed.

Topics: I suggest we use [Adam Jaffe and Josh Lerner's book "Innovation and its Discontent"](#) as a starting point, Princeton University Press, 2004. The book is currently available online for free due to the Corona initiative of the publisher. It contains 7 chapters – these can each be covered by pairs of you. I do expect that you look for additional literature to

complement the content of the chapter – if in need contact me and we look together for articles and papers that could add to the chapter. The structure of the book will help us to keep the seminar together and I hope that most of you at least skim through the book maybe even before we allocate topics. Your presentations and essays should summarise the chapter and additional articles – this includes explaining and illustrating the main points as well as a critical evaluation of its content (what do you like, what do you think is wrong, what is missing, etc.) and what could be additional steps for research. Some, most, of the additional articles and papers you will use hopefully come from questions that were left open by the book or that led to book chapter.

As in all my seminars, I am always open if you want to cover a topic that is not part of this book. On patents there are a couple of interesting topics to look for: Patent Trolls, the role of the courts in patents, patent thickets, differences between patents and other IP, patents as a measure of knowledge (of a company or a country) ... are all, in my eyes sometimes fancy sounding keywords for research that is somewhat covered by Jaffe and Lerner, but can be covered in much more detail. Do a search yourself, and if you find topics independent of the book, please let me know. I am more than happy to accommodate and support your own initiative. Similarly wherever the chapter or your article uses some data, feel free to update or look at data from another country. Seminars are an opportunity to produce your own first bit of research and a good practice round for a thesis (maybe even the starting point of your Masters or even PhD thesis).

Any questions: Please get in touch – uwe.dulleck@qut.edu.au .