

**Aktuelle Forschungsfragen der  
Empirischen Finanzwissenschaft und Wirtschaftspolitik /  
Ökonometrie  
SS 2013**

**Theme: Topics in Empirical Public Economics**

**Contents and Topics:** The focus of the seminar is on the empirical evaluation of the effects of government policies, in particular fiscal and social policies. Basic knowledge of applied microeconometrics is assumed. Each student is expected to prepare and present a short empirical paper (not more than 15 pages) on some topic in public economics. Joint work of two students is also possible for certain research topics. Examples of research topics include:

- Detecting causes of rising wage/earnings inequality
- Measuring transitory/permanent wage/earnings inequality
- Decomposition analysis of earnings inequality
- Labor market transitions – “stepping-stone” or dead-end?
- Taxation of low earnings and welfare reform
- Welfare and labor market effects of unemployment benefit reforms
- Employment protection regulation, wages and employment structure
- Pension reforms and early retirement
- Saving incentives for retirement
- Evaluation of health insurance reforms.

Most of these topics can be analyzed using the German Socio-Economic Panel Study. Using other data sets for other countries downloadable from the internet may also be an option. Topics for seminar papers will be allocated at the preliminary meeting; students may also suggest appropriate topics on their own.

**Grading:** The seminar counts for the Master of Public Economics and the Master of Economics programs either as “Aktuelle Forschungsfragen der Empirischen Finanzwissenschaft und Wirtschaftspolitik” (107077) or “Aktuelle Forschungsfragen der Ökonometrie” (104116a) programs. The seminar may also be attended by PhD students with an interest in empirical public economics. The grade will be made up of the seminar paper, its presentation and the student’s participation in the seminar. Both the required paper and the presentation may be in German or English, as preferred by the student.

**Schedule:** Wednesday, 10 April, 16.00 – 18.00: Preliminary meeting;  
Venue: Boltzmannstr. 20, Kaminzimmer.

Friday, 10 Mai: 9 – 14: Brief presentation of research topic, proposed methodology, data, etc. (venue t.b.a.)

Friday/Saturday, 21-22 June: 9 – 16, 9 – 14: Paper presentation and discussion (depending on number of paper presentations; exact time and venue tba)

10 July: Submission of final paper.

Dates may be changed on agreement at the first meeting.

If you want to participate in the seminar but cannot attend the preliminary meeting, send an email to [viktor.steiner@fu-berlin.de](mailto:viktor.steiner@fu-berlin.de) stating your preferred topic for the seminar paper.