

Bachelorseminar Prof. Dr. Oliver Gürtler

Topic: Economics of Crime

Oliver Gürtler, Max Thon, Tim Umbach

Summer term 2021

1 Content

The seminar is paper-based and investigates the field Economics of Crime.

Your task in the seminar will be to write a thesis/paper about your assigned topic and to present this thesis during the seminar. The kick-off meeting is scheduled for the 15th of April (3 pm), 2021. However, due to the Corona pandemic our kick-off meeting will take place online via zoom. Further instructions how to enter the kick-off meeting can be found in the respective Ilias course of the seminar.

2 Important dates and registration

Application

You have to apply for the seminar via KLIPS 2.0 during the first registration period (1. Belegungsphase) until February 16, 2021 and during the second registration period (2. Belegungsphase) from March 5, 2021 until March 24, 2021. Since the number of participants is limited, we cannot guarantee your participation in the seminar.

Exam registration and assignment of topics

Please take a look at the topics listed in the literature section. Please send an email containing your preferences to [Max Thon](#) until the 18th of April, 2021 (midnight). You should choose at least three different topics and outline your preferences in descending order, i.e. begin with the topic you like most. Note that you need to register for the exam on Klips 2.0 until the xx of April, 2021. If you miss to register on Klips 2.0 you will not be able to take part in the seminar.

Deadline seminar thesis

The thesis must be handed in by June 4, 2021. Please note that you need to hand in an electronic version as well as a hard copy of your thesis.

Presentations

The seminar is held on July 13 and 14, 2021. The presentations are scheduled as an in person event. However, depending on the development of the corona pandemic we may switch to an electronic format.

If you require further information please feel free to contact Oliver Gürtler (oliver.guertler@uni-koeln.de), Max Thon (thon@wiso.uni-koeln.de) or Tim Umbach (umbach@wiso.uni-koeln.de).

3 Topics

Section 1: Crime and Punishment

Topic 1 Becker, Gary S., 1968, Crime and Punishment: an Economic Approach, In: Economic Dimensions of Crime, Palgrave Macmillan, London, 13-68

Topic 2 Donohue, John J. and Justin Wolfers, 2006, Uses and Abuses of Empirical Evidence in the Death Penalty Debate, Working Paper

Section 2: Organized Crime

Topic 3 Alesina, Alberto, Piccolo Salvatore and Paolo Pinotti, 2019, Organized Crime, Violence and Politics, Review of Economic studies, 86: 457-499

Topic 4 Dell Melissa, 2015, Trafficking Networks and the Mexican Drug War, American Economic Review, 105(6): 1738-1779

Section 3: Crime and the Labor Market

Topic 5 Brian, Bell, Bindler Anna and Machin Stephan, 2018, Crime Scars: Recessions and the Making of Career Criminals, Review of Economics and Statistics, 100(3): 392-404

Section 4: Leniency Programs and Cartel Prosecution

Topic 6 Motta, Massimo and Michele, Polo, 2003, Leniency programs and cartel prosecution, International Journal of Industrial Organization, 21: 347-379