Hauptseminar/V-Seminar WiSe 2018/19

Emergence and Dynamics of Conventions and Social Norms

LECTURERS
Prof. Dr. Stefan Napel
Prof. Dr. Olivier Roy

OBJECTIVES
Can moral norms evolve out of selfish or “self-interested” behavior? Can individually rational agents learn to cooperate with each other? How do common beliefs and social norms like fashion or driving directions come about? How and when are they sustained? Can creatures without language learn to communicate and attribute meaning to utterances?
The goal of this block seminar is to study seminal contributions, at the intersection of economic modelling and philosophical enquiry, that try to answer these questions. At the end of the seminar the student will be familiar with a number of models of evolution of cooperative behavior, social norms, social preferences and language in games.

TARGET GROUP
Advanced Bachelor’s students – and for selected topics also Master’s students – from:
- Philosophy & Economics
- Economics
- Internationale Wirtschaft & Entwicklung

SEMINAR PLACES
- 16

LANGUAGE OF INSTRUCTION/ASSESSMENT
- Seminar: English
- Written work: English

DATES AND DEADLINES (Deadlines are final and will be strictly enforced)
- Introduction and Organization Sessions: Oct. 18th, 2018, 12 (c.t.). Room t.b.a.
- Registration: The registration takes place in two steps.
  1. Course Registration on CampusOnline.
  2. Topic selection by contact with the lecturers (Napel and Roy).
    Deadline for complete registration: Oct 25th, 2018, 12pm. Places and topics will be allocated on a first-come-first-served basis.
- Seminar: Nov. 23rd to 25th, 2018.
- Submission of seminar papers: March 31st, 2019.
ASSSESSMENT

*Philosophy & Economics*
- V seminar 5 cp: presentation, comment, participation + 4000-5000 word seminar paper.
- P3* seminar 2 cp: presentation, comment, participation.
- Old PO V seminar 8 cp: same as 2 cp + 5000-6000 word seminar paper

*Economics, IWE*
- BSc Hauptseminar 5 cp: presentation, comment, participation, 3500–4500 word seminar paper. [New PO: Theoretisches Seminar; Old PO: Individueller Schwerpunkt or as GVWL II 5/6.]

ENROLMENT/REGISTRATION:
Please enroll directly on CampusOnline.

SEMINAR INSTRUCTIONS
1. Time allowed: presentation of 45 min., comment of 5 min, discussion of 30 mins.
2. Presentations should be a concise and systematic overview of the topic in the form of a "teaching lecture".
3. Each presentation will be assigned to one other participant, who is to comment on/initiate the discussion of the contents of the presentation. Presenters are required to send their presentations to both instructors and the respective commenters at least seven days before the seminar session.
4. The literature given below is a starting point for your lecture. You are typically expected to find additional material yourself.
5. The order of presentations need not correspond to the ordering of topics found below. All participants shall be ready to give their presentation on the first seminar day.

SEMINAR PAPERS
Your seminar paper should be on a well-defined issue related to your presentation topic.

Please make sure when writing your paper that you maintain scholarly standards of presentation and citation. For guidance, please consult any of the research papers that can be found on either of our web sites. We recommend that you use the author-date (Harvard) referencing system.

THEMES
P = Philosophical paper.
E = Econ/tech paper
* = advanced paper

T1. Emergence of Economic Standards.

T2. Conventions in Simple Coordination Problems.


T3. Evolution of Language.


T5. Evolution of Cooperation and Morality.


T7. Consensus Formation.


Additional references on modeling tools:

Static analysis of the evolution of strategies:

Dynamic analysis of the evolution of strategies:

Learning dynamics and stochastic stability: