



## **Seminar Political Economy WS 2021/22: Experimental Approaches to Voting and Political Decisions**

### **Objective and Target Group**

Experimental methods have been rapidly developing in economics and political science over the past few years, especially in the field of electoral behaviour. At the same time, voting experiments build on different traditions (esp. psychology and behavioural economics) and use different designs and settings (laboratory, field, and survey experiments). The purpose of the seminar is to critically assess the scientific contribution of key studies in the field of electoral behaviour and to give the participants both a sense of the frontier research topics and a good command of the tools used in the area.

The seminar is targeted at Master's (and advanced and motivated Bachelor's) students of *Economics*, *Internationale Wirtschaft & Governance*, and *Philosophy & Economics*.

### **Dates and Deadlines**

A short introduction to the available topics (see the list below) will be given on Monday, August 9, 2021 at 10:00 am via Zoom (the log in details are provided at the end of this document).

All presentations will be blocked on Friday, November 5, and Saturday, November 6, 2021. The presentations must be submitted until October 31, 2021. Seminar papers must be handed in until March 31, 2022. Please note that deadlines are final and will be strictly enforced.

### **Assessment**

Presentation, comment, participation and seminar paper (approx. 5500-6500 words). The latter should be a critical assessment of your paper. In particular you should try to address the following questions: *What is the research question and why is it relevant? How do the authors try to answer the research question? Do the authors provide convincing answers to the research question? Do you see scope for future research?*

The seminar gives credit points in:

- Master Economics: *Governance, Wettbewerb und gesellschaftliche Entwicklung* (Governance), *Individueller Schwerpunkt* [selected topics can also give credits for *Advanced Microeconomics II* (Modelltheorie)]
- Master IWG: *Governance & „Politik“* (Governance & Public Management), *Individuelle Spezialisierung* [selected topics can also give credits for *Advanced Microeconomics II* (Ökonomische Modellbildung und empirische Analyse)]
- Master P&E: *Economics Elective* (Specialization)

## Seminar Instructions

- The seminar language will be English.
- Time allowed: 45 min. presentation, 5 min. comment, 10 min. discussion.
- Presentations should be a comprehensive overview of the topic.
- Each presentation will be assigned to one other participant, who is to comment on (and initiate the discussion of) the contents of the presentation. Presenters are required to send their presentations to both lecturers and the respective commenters until October 31, 2021.
- Although the literature given below should be the focus of your seminar paper, you are expected to find additional material yourself.

## Registration

Students who want to register for the seminar can do so with an e-mail to [alexander.mayer@uni-bayreuth.de](mailto:alexander.mayer@uni-bayreuth.de) until September 30, 2021. In the e-mail please give the following information in a comma-delimited list without spaces between commas and without any further details (such as “Dear Mr. Mayer” etc.) exactly as follows:

Last name,First name,Mat-Nr.,Degree,Semester,Pref1,Pref2,Pref3

### Key

Degree = Econ, IWG, P&E

Semester = Your semester in WS 21/22 (e.g., MA2 for your 2<sup>nd</sup> master semester)

Pref = your preferred topic

### Example

Arrow,Kenneth,1234567,Econ,MA3,2a,8,3c

Admission to the seminar is based on “first come, first serve”. You will be notified about acceptance (and your topic) directly after registration.

## Topics

### T1. The Paradox of Turnout

- Schram, A. and J. Sonnemans (1996). *Voter Turnout as a Participation Game: An Experimental Investigation*. International Journal of Game Theory 25, 385-406.

### T2. Why do Voters Vote?

- **T2a** Gerber, A. S., D. P. Green and C. W. Larimer (2008). *Social Pressure and Voter Turnout: Evidence from a Large-Scale Field Experiment*. American Political Science Review 102, 33-48.
- **T2b** DellaVigna, S., J. List, U. Malmendier and G. Rao (2017). *Voting to Tell Others*. Review of Economic Studies 84, 143-181.

### T3. Are Voters Strategic?

- **T3a** Van der Straeten, K., J.-F. Laslier, N. Sauger and A. Blais (2010). *Strategic, Sincere, and Heuristic Voting under Four Election Rules: An Experimental Study*. Social Choice and Welfare 35, 435-472.
- **T3b** Tyszler, M. and A. Schram (2016). *Information and Strategic Voting*. Experimental Economics 19, 360-381.
- **T3c** Kube, S. and C. Puppe (2009). *(When and How) Do Voters Try to Manipulate?* Public Choice 139, 39-52.

**T4. The Role of Costs**

- Hodler, R., S. Luechinger and A. Stutzer (2015). *The Effects of Voting Costs on the Democratic Process and Public Finances*. *American Economic Journal: Economic Policy* 7, 141-171.

**T5. The Role of the Voting Technology**

- **T5a** Card, D. and E. Moretti (2007). *Does Voting Technology Affect Election Outcomes? Touch-Screen Voting and the 2004 Presidential Election*. *Review of Economics and Statistics* 89, 660-673.
- **T5b** Fujiwara, T. (2015). *Voting Technology, Political Responsiveness, and Infant Health: Evidence from Brazil*. *Econometrica* 83, 423-464.

**T6. The Role of Pre-Election Polls**

- **T6a** Forsythe, R., R. B. Myerson, T. A. Rietz and R. J. Weber (1993). *An Experiment on Coordination in Multi-Candidate Elections: The Importance of Polls and Election Histories*. *Social Choice and Welfare* 10, 223-247.
- **T6b** Großer, J. and A. Schram (2010). *Public Opinion Polls, Voter Turnout, and Welfare: An Experimental Study*. *American Journal of Political Science* 54, 700-717.

**T7. The Role of the Media**

- **T7a** Gerber, A. S., D. Karlan and D. Bergan (2009). *Does the Media Matter? A Field Experiment Measuring the Effect of Newspapers on Voting Behavior and Political Opinions*. *American Economic Journal: Applied Economics* 1, 35-52.
- **T7b** Bond, R. M., C. J. Fariss, J. J. Jones, A. D. I. Kramer, C. Marlow, J. E. Settle, J. H. Fowler. *A 61-Million-Person Experiment in Social Influence and Political Mobilization*. *Nature* 489, 295-298.

**T8. The Role of Information**

- Snyder, J. M. and D. Strömberg (2010). *Press Coverage and Political Accountability*. *Journal of Political Economy* 118, 355-408.

**T9. The Role of Deliberation**

- Goeree, J. K. and L. Yariv (2011). *An Experimental Study of Collective Deliberation*. *Econometrica* 79, 893-921.

Log in link for Zoom:

<https://uni-bayreuth.zoom.us/j/67267488070?pwd=cnFDNUs5ZnZyUytYV05JMVV3NUxtdz09>