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Seminars in International Economic Policy

Introduction by Alexander Herborn and Taiki Murai



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Seminar 1:

29. Dialogseminar Afrika: Entwicklungspolitische Strategien und Perspektiven

Tutor: Alexander Herborn, Taiki Murai

Seminar 1



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Seminar:

Participants write a term paper and participate in the online Dialogseminar on June 11th and 12th, 2021.

Information regarding the program can be found on our website:

<https://www.wifa.uni-leipzig.de/institut-fuer-wirtschaftspolitik/studium/sommer-2021/29-dialogseminar-afrika-entwicklungspolitische-strategien-und-perspektiven/>

All further information (link to the seminar) will be provided on the link above.

Participants are expected to read the papers (which will be distributed prior to the Dialogseminar) and participate in the discussion.

Term paper:

3,200 – 4,000 words (~ 8 - 10 pages)

Submission until **June 10th, 23:59h** by email to herborn@wifa.uni-leipzig.de and murai@wifa.uni-leipzig.de.

Seminar 1



1.	Africa's wealth of resources: curse or blessing?
2.	China's investment in Africa: neocolonialism or effective development aid?
3.	Is EU agricultural policy harming farmers in Africa?
4.	Determinants of growth in the four Asian tiger economies compared to Sub-Saharan Africa
5.	Corruption and growth in developing countries
6.	Is Fair Trade fair?
7.	Microcredit as the silver bullet of development aid?
8.	Lucas Paradox: Why does capital net flow from rich to poor countries?
9.	The role of Japan for economic development in Asia
10.	The African debt crisis in the 1980s
11.	The World Bank and developing countries: foreign aid for economic welfare or political interest?

Seminar 1



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Topic allocation:

Please write an email with your **3 preferred** topics to herborn@wifa.uni-leipzig.de and murai@wifa.uni-leipzig.de by April 16th.



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Seminar 2: **Financial Development and Innovation in Developing Countries and Emerging Markets**

Tutor: Prof. Dr. Ulrich Volz (SOAS University London)



Seminar 2

Seminar:

Participants write a term paper and present their results online on **July 9th**.

Prof. Volz will contact participants and provide further information.

Term paper:

3,200 - 4,000 words (~ 8 - 10 Pages)

Submission until **June 10th, 23:59h** by email to herborn@wifa.uni-leipzig.de and murai@wifa.uni-leipzig.de.

Seminar 2



1.	Discuss the causes of and the problems associated with dollarisation.
2.	Has the microfinance revolution delivered on its promises?
3.	Discuss the extent to which the mobile banking and payment revolution has affected the lives of the poor.
4.	Discuss how FinTech and the blockchain technology can improve access to finance and support development.
5.	Analyse the progress and challenges in developing local currency bond markets in developing and emerging economies.
6.	Discuss the growing importance of Islamic finance. Does it provide a serious alternative to conventional finance?
7.	Discuss the reasons why an increasing number of financial authorities in developing and emerging economies have started to take into account risks associated to climate change and environmental damage and promote green finance.
8.	Can shadow banking in China trigger a major financial crisis?

Seminar 2



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General Recommendations

Formal Requirements



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Check our website!

(Lehre > Schriftliche Arbeiten)



Best Practices

1. Have a clear **research question** and stick to it
2. Be **consistent**
3. Make appropriate use of **literature**
4. Make appropriate use of **data**



Research Question: Example

Title:

Independent Monetary Policy and Fiscal Discipline

Research Question (examples):

Does the ability to pursue independent monetary policy undermine fiscal discipline?

Can the commitment to an international anchor currency improve credibility and fiscal discipline?



Consistency Good

1. Introduction
2. Section
 - 2.1 Subsection
 - 2.2 Subsection
3. Section
 - 3.1 Subsection
 - 3.2 Subsection
4. Section
 - 4.1 Subsection
 - 4.2 Subsection
5. Conclusion

Bad

1. Introduction
2. Section
 - 2.1 Subsection
 - 2.2 Subsection
3. Section
4. Section
 - 4.1 Subsection
 - 4.2 Subsection
 - 4.2.1 Subsubsection
 - 4.3 Subsection
5. Conclusion



Using Literature

- Use **Google Scholar** from the **University network** (or using a **VPN**)
- Use a decent amount of **high quality literature** (e.g. articles in peer-reviewed journals) to back up your argument
- **20 to 30 academic(!) references** are appropriate for a 7-9 page term paper



Using Data

- You are not expected to use econometric models
- However, using appropriate **data visualization** can be very helpful to back up your argument
- **On our website** you can find a collection of good data sources
- We recommend using **Datastream** (e.g. for IMF's International Financial Statistics)



Improve your writing

- How?
- Check this out:

Deirdre McCloskey: *Economical Writing*

- Buy the book or get a shorter version for free:

http://www.deirdremccloskey.com/docs/pdf/Article_86.pdf