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 Albert-Ludwigs-Universität Freiburg
 Winter term 2023/24

Seminar: Inequality – How do we measure it, what do we know, and what does it imply? (6 ECTS)

Description

Inequality is one of the most pressing problems of our time. It is deeply rooted in society. Inequality is both, the consequence of social dynamics and at the same time affecting further developments. Because of its relevance, the discussion on inequality is often fiercely contested and shaped by political backgrounds. This seminar aims at objectifying the debate.

Seminar participants will work on current topics in the field of inequality research. The seminar covers 1) the definitions of inequality and the different forms it takes, 2) their implications and, 3) different approaches of tackling inequality. Both experimental and empirical approaches are covered. The skills acquired in the seminar will be useful for writing a master thesis. The goals of the seminar are to:

- Acquire, select and discuss relevant and current scientific literature on the topic and background.
- Produce and present a scientific seminar paper and discuss peers' drafts and final papers.

Who can participate?

The seminar is aimed at Master students (M. Sc. VWL / Economics (internal for all tracks) / BWL) and conducted in English. We expect participants to actively contribute to the seminar, be it during the semester or during the discussion of the presentations at the block seminar.

Registration

Registration: Attendance is limited to 15 students. If you are interested, please send an email to Heidrun Klotz (sek.feld@vwl.uni-freiburg.de). Please remember to state your area of study, semester, matriculation number and submit a current transcript of records.

Meetings and deadlines

Introductory meeting	October 23, 2023, 10:00-11:00, Walter Eucken Institut
Overview: Methods & topics	October 26, 10:00-12:00, Rempartstr. 16
Assignment of topics	October 30, 2023 (via email)
Discussion of a peer's one-pager	December 7, 2023, 10:00-12:00, Rempartstr. 16
Block seminar: presentation & discussion	January 25 & 26, 2024, 09:00-16:00 Walter Eucken Institut

Introductory literature

Attanasio, Orazio P.; Pistaferri, Luigi (2016): Consumption Inequality, In: *Journal of Economic Perspectives* 30(2), 3-28.

Banerjee, Abhijit V.; Duflo, Esther (2003): Inequality and Growth: What Can the Data Say? In: *Journal of Economic Growth* (8), 267-299.

Cohn, Alain; Jessen, Lasse J.; Klačnjak, Marko; Smeets, Paul (2023): Wealthy Americans and Redistribution: The Role of Fairness Preferences, In: *Journal of Public Economics* (225), 1-14.

Clark, Gregory; Cummins, Neil (2014): *The Son Also Rises – Surnames and the History of Social Mobility*, Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press.

Milanović, Branko (2016): *Global Inequality – A New Approach for the Age of Globalization*, Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press.