

## **Project Seminar: Experimental Economics**

**Winter Semester 2017/2018**

**Organizational Meeting & Preliminary Discussion**

**on Thursday, July 27, 2017, 11:30**

**in room LG 3.166**

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In the winter semester 2017/2018 the Chair of Economic Theory (Prof. Dr. Veronika Grimm) organizes the annual Project Seminar on Experimental Economics. The seminar is open to Master and Doctoral Students.

The objective of the seminar is the development, execution, and analysis of an experimental research project as a group effort under professional guidance. In the organizational meeting participants will be presented with an initial research idea that needs to be developed into a specific research question. The next steps will be designing an appropriate experiment to investigate this question, the technical implementation of the design including actually conducting the experiment in the experimental laboratory (LERN), and the statistical analysis of the results. The goal of the seminar is to become acquainted with the method of experimental economics and to obtain a comprehensive overview of the single steps an experimental project consists of. By developing a very own small research project the seminar relates closely to scientific practice.

In a first step the students develop and present an experimental research question based on the general idea presented in the organizational meeting. Different approaches will be discussed and the most appropriate approach will be selected and implemented by the entire seminar group. This includes the development of the experimental design, programming and organizing the experiment, and analysis of the experimental data. The single tasks will be distributed among small groups during the course of the seminar. Accompanying the seminar there will be a brief introduction to z-Tree, the most common experimental software, and to non-parametric statistics which is used to analyze experimental data. The experiment will be conducted in the Laboratory for Experimental Research Nuremberg (LERN). In a last step the data will be analyzed and the project will be summarized by the students in a joint paper. The seminar grades will be determined by all presentation and discussion efforts throughout the seminar (project proposal, design development, data analysis) and the final paper summarizing the project. Additionally, there will be a

short compulsory homework assignment about the introduction to programming and non-parametric statistics. The seminar should result in a first joint research paper.

Summary of the seminar's **main objectives**:

- Transformation of a (very own) research question into an experimental design
- Introduction to programming with z-Tree
- Preparation and execution of the experiment
- Introduction to non-parametric statistics
- Analysis of the experimental data

If you are interested in participating please send in advance a brief application email stating your motivation to participate, your field of studies, and the research topics you may be interested in to Michael Seebauer ([michael.seebauer@fau.de](mailto:michael.seebauer@fau.de)).

The planned schedule for the seminar is as follows:

- Organizational Meeting & Preliminary Discussion: Thursday, July 27, 2017 at 11:30 in room LG 3.166

During the winter semester we will meet on a regular basis every two weeks (at least) starting in calendar week 42. The major milestones will be:

- Discussion of the experimental research question and approaches (calendar week 42)
- Discussion of the experimental design (calendar week 46)
- Testing of the experimental program in the laboratory (calendar week 48)
- Conducting the experiment in the laboratory (calendar week 50)
- Discussion of experimental results (calendar week 3)
- Paper submission deadline (February 28, 2018)

We are looking forward to your participation!