

# Good Economics for Hard Times

Bachelor Seminar, Winter 21/22

## Basic Information

- Instructors: Sebastian Findeisen, Oliver Schlenker, Lucas Buetje. Office hour policy will be announced in the first meeting.
- Time and location:
  - Introductory Session: Thursday, October 28, 10:00, Room: tdb
  - Block seminar: Friday, February 11 and Saturday, February 12
- Grading (planned, might change slightly): term paper (40%), presentation (35%), active participation in class (25%)
- In-person at the Uni (on Zoom if health restrictions rule out in-person instructions)

## Course Outline

In most countries, including Germany and the US, there is a growing sense that polarization is increasing and that the public discourse between the left and the right has become less civilized, more hostile, and less likely to achieve common ground. Some of the most controversial issues include the impact of immigration, automation, and trade on workers; the rise of nativism and xenophobia; and universal basic income. In this seminar, we will try to synthesize evidence from recent, credible economic papers and try to see what the data tells us.

The seminar will be based on the recent book *Good Economics for Hard Times*, by the 2019 Nobel laureates Abhijit V. Banerjee and Esther Duflo. You will write a report about parts of the book, and do a presentation in class. In addition, you are expected to actively contribute to our discussions in class.

## **Book**

Banerjee, A., and E. Duflo. "Good Economics for Hard Times." (2019).