

Seminar “Social Cohesion”

Lecturer: Prof. Christina Felfe de Ormeño, Ph.D.

Content:

“The most certain prediction that we can make about almost any modern society is that it will be more diverse a generation from now than it is today” (Robert Putnam, The 2006 Johan Skytte Prize Lecture).

The increase in ethnic and social heterogeneity, while likely to bring about significant opportunities, belongs to the most important challenges facing modern societies. Diversity tends to reduce social cohesion – people’s willingness to cooperate with each other. Yet so far, our knowledge is limited when it comes to the origins of social cohesion, or better said limited social cohesion. In particular, we lack answers to the questions like “What are the causal origins of social cohesion?” or “What are the mechanisms producing in-group favouritism and out-group discrimination?”.

In this seminar, we aim at teaching the skills necessary to conduct an empirical study to measure people's social behavior towards people from diverse backgrounds. We will read and discuss scientific methodological papers that allow students to acquire the necessary empirical tools to conduct such an empirical study. The recurring topic will be related to the origins of social cohesion and social preferences, the role of the family and the school in shaping children's social behavior and preferences.

Interested students will get the opportunity to collaborate within a large field study on the development of socially cohesive behavior among children over the WS 24/25 which can both allow them to work at the chair as a research assistant and/or write their master thesis using the data collected within the field study.

Time slots:

Introductory session on 11.04.2024 at 5-6:30pm in F428

Online workshops on 16.05/06.06.2024 from 9am-4:15pm

Student presentations on 23.05/13.06/04.07/11.07.2024 at 3:15-6:30pm in F428

Introduction into an ongoing research project on 11.07.2024 at 3:15-6:30pm in F428

Required skills: No skills required.

Exam:

In course presentation and active participation (50%) and seminar paper (50%) due by July 31, 2024

Pick a paper until April 30, we will open a registration platform by April 22

For the presentation:

Structure

- Slide 1: Research question – Why you find this interesting, why do you think it is important!
- Slide 2: Motivation by authors and the contribution
- Slide 3 or 4: Experimental/Empirical Design (Method)
- Slide 4 or 3: Data (Background about the data, the sample and the descriptive statistics)
- Slide 5: Results
- (Slide 6: Robustness of the results)
- Slide 7: Conclusion and the (policy) relevance

Schedule

May 16 Identity – Daily workshop

Invited Speakers: Miguel Abellan (Leuphana University Lüneburg), Ankush Asri (Radboud University), Rachel Kranton (Duke University), Sigrid Suetens (Tilburg University), Roel van Veldhuizen (Lund University)

May 23 Social identity and Group Behavior

Student presentations:

- Kranton et al. (2020). Deconstructing bias in social preferences reveals groupy and not-groupy behavior
- Kranton and Sanders (2017). Groupy versus Non-Groupy Social Preferences: Personality, Region, and Political Party

Introduction to field work with children – Christina Felfe

- Brocas and Carillo (2020). Understanding Cognition and Decision Making by Children. Studying decision-making in children: Challenges and opportunities
- List, Petrie and Samek (2021). How experiments with children inform economics

June 06 Behavior at an Early Age

Speakers: Diego Aycinena (University of Pennsylvania), Margerita Fort (University of Bologna) Marta Golin (University of Zurich), Ragan Petrie (Texas A&M), Victoria Southgate (Copenhagen University)

June 13 Prosocial Behavior and Norm Enforcement in Children

- Fehr, E., Bernhard, H. and Rockenbach, B. (2008). Egalitarianism in young children.
- Bindra, Glätzle-Rützler, and Lergetporer (2020). Discrimination at young age: Experimental evidence from preschool children
- Basic, Bindra, Glätzle-Rützler, Romano, Sutter and Zoller (2022). The Roots of Cooperation
- Hermes et al. (2020). Do children cooperate conditionally? Adapting the strategy method for first-graders
- Basic, Falk, and Kosse (2020) - The development of egalitarian norm enforcement in childhood and adolescence
- House, Kanngiesser, Barrett, Broesch, Cebioglu, Crittenden, Erut, Lew-Levy, Sebastian-Enesco, Smith, Yilmaz and Silk (2020). Universal norm psychology leads to societal diversity in prosocial behaviour and development

July 04 Determinants of Prosocial Behavior in Children

- Deckers, Falk, Kosse, Pinger and Schildberg-Hörisch (2020). The Formation of Prosociality: Causal Evidence on the Role of Social Environment.
- Cappelen, List, Samek and Samek (2020). "The Effect of Early Education on Social Preferences
- Boucher, V., Tumen, S., Vlassopoulos, M., Wahba, J. and Y. Zenou (2022). "Ethnic mixing in Early Childhood: Evidence from a randomized field experiment and a structural model"
- Anderberg, Dahl, Felfe, Rainer and Siedler (2024). Diversity and Discrimination in the Classroom
- Alan, Baysan, Gumre and Kubilay (2021). Building Social Cohesion in Ethnically Mixed Schools: An Intervention on Perspective Taking
- Felfe, Kocher, Rainer, Saurer and Siedler (2021) More Opportunity, More Cooperation? The Behavioral Effects of Birthright Citizenship on Immigrant Youth.

July 11 The origins of social cohesion in increasingly diverse society -KIDSnGROUPS