



Winter term 2026/27

## Master Seminar in Public Economics Experiments in the Public Sector

### Course Description

This seminar explores the use of randomized field and survey experiments to study key questions in public economics. Conducted in real-world settings, these experiments provide rigorous empirical evidence on individual preferences and on the effectiveness of policy interventions in shaping behaviour. The course focuses on applications in tax compliance, public administration, and redistribution. The course focuses on applications in education, social insurance, environmental policy, and redistribution. Students will engage critically with recent high-quality empirical research and learn how experimental methods can inform policy design and evaluation.

Throughout the seminar, students will be guided through the main steps of empirical research: (i) identifying relevant literature; (ii) presenting state of the art empirical papers; (iii) developing a relevant research question, and (iv) planning their own empirical analysis.

In multiple class meetings throughout the semester, students will receive feedback on each step of the research process. By the end of the course, students will be equipped to design and evaluate empirical research projects that contribute to real-world public policy debates.

### Grading:

The course is based on several modes of assessment:

- Seminar thesis (40%)
- Presentation (20%)
- Several very short written comments on published research papers (20%)
- Input and Participation in Class (20%)

### Requirements

Empirical Public Economics or Topics in Public Economics,  
Introductory Econometrics (recommended) or basic knowledge of working with data.

**Registration** for the seminar will take place **at the first (kick-off) meeting**.

Please see the following ILIAS course for further information:

<https://ilias.uni-hohenheim.de/goto.php/crs/1829082>

**Supervisor:** Prof. Dr. Nadja Dwenger

**Kick-Off**

**Oct. 14, 2:30 – 4:00 pm, S05**