

## Current Topics in Public Economics: Pandemics

Modul: MA-WW-VWL-0903a D-WW-WIWI-0903a

Master Seminar

WS 2020/2021

### Covid-19 notification

This will be a full online seminar. The kick-off meeting, mid-term consultations, and presentations will be held via Zoom. Please contact the organizer Felix Rösel in case of any question: [roesel@ifo.de](mailto:roesel@ifo.de)

Participation requires pre-registration until 29 October 2020 via e-mail! Please see the details below.

### Outline

Pandemics have almost wiped out humankind a couple of times. This seminar deals with the history, theory and empirics of pandemics and their economic and political consequences. Participants will learn models measuring, quantifying and explaining the spread of communicable diseases, discuss the efficiency of public health containment measures, and investigate long-term (side) effects of pandemics on modern human societies.

### Language

English (German only on demand).

### Requirements

Interest in health economics and public health and basic knowledge in macro- and microeconomics are recommended.

### Exams

Participants can earn 5 credit points when completing:

- Term paper (10–12 pages)
- Seminar talk (20 minutes presentation + 10 minutes discussion)
- Active participation in the seminar
- Mandatory mid-term consultation (in December 2020)

### Lecturers

- Prof. Dr. Alexander Karmann, TU Dresden ([alexander.karmann@tu-dresden.de](mailto:alexander.karmann@tu-dresden.de))
- Dr. Felix Rösel, ifo Institute Dresden, TU Dresden ([roesel@ifo.de](mailto:roesel@ifo.de), 0351 26476-28)



## Schedule

Participants select one topic at the kick-off meeting in November 2020, prepare a paper of 10 to 12 pages until March 2021, and present their findings in January 2021 in the seminar (20 minutes), followed by a discussion of 5 to 10 minutes. At least one mid-term consultation with the supervisor in December 2020 is mandatory. Consultation appointments will be made at the kick-off meeting.

Please pre-register **until 29 October 2020** via e-mail for the kick-off meeting: [roesel@ifo.de](mailto:roesel@ifo.de) (name, studies, topic preference). **Only** pre-registered participants will receive the Zoom login details for the kick-off meeting. You can already signal your interest in a specific topic (see below) with your registration. First-come-first served applies.

- 05.11.2020 (13:00–14:30): **Kick-off** and assignment of topics (via Zoom)  
17.12.2020 and 18.12.2020: Individual **consultations** (via Zoom)  
22.01.2021 (09:00–16:00): **Seminar** (presentations and discussions) (via Zoom)  
01.03.2021 (14:00): Deadline for **term papers** (submission via e-mail)

## Topics

This seminar is for a maximum of 16 participants. Teamwork of two is possible after all 8 topics are allocated (joint presentation, individual term papers). Please consider the recommended literature only as a starting point. You may survey and review further studies.

### A. Theory

#### 1. SI and SIR models

Atkeson, A. (2020): What Will Be the Economic Impact of COVID-19 in the US? Rough Estimates of Disease Scenarios, NBER Working Paper No. 26867.

#### 2. Basic reproductive number vs. Effective reproduction number

Aronson, J. K., Brassey, J. and K. R. Mahtani (2020): "When will it be over?": An introduction to viral reproduction numbers,  $R_0$  and  $R_e$ , <https://www.cebm.net/covid-19/when-will-it-be-over-an-introduction-to-viral-reproduction-numbers-r0-and-re/>.

#### 3. Excess mortality

Aron, J. and J. Muellbauer (2020): A pandemic primer on excess mortality statistics and their comparability across countries, <https://ourworldindata.org/covid-excess-mortality>.

*B. History*

**4. History of pandemics**

Huremović, D. (2019): Brief History of Pandemics (Pandemics Throughout History), *Psychiatry of Pandemics*, 7–35.

LePan, N. (2020): Visualizing the History of Pandemics, <https://www.visualcapitalist.com/history-of-pandemics-deadliest/>.

*C. Empirics*

**5. Economic effects of pandemics**

Barro, R., Ursúa, J. and J. Weng (2020): The Coronavirus and the Great Influenza Pandemic: Lessons from the "Spanish Flu" for the Coronavirus's Potential Effects on Mortality and Economic Activity, NBER Working Paper No. 26866.

Jordà, Ò., Singh, S. R., and A. M. Taylor (2020): Longer-Run Economic Consequences of Pandemics, Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco Working Paper 2020-09.

**6. Political effects of pandemics**

Blickle, K. (2020): Pandemics Change Cities: Municipal Spending and Voter Extremism in Germany, 1918-1933, Federal Reserve Bank of New York Staff Reports No. 921.

Daniele, G. et al. (2020): Wind of Change? Experimental Survey Evidence on the COVID-19 Shock and Socio-Political Attitudes in Europe, CESifo Working Paper No. 8517.

**7. Effects of containment measures**

Correia, S., Luck, S. and E. Verner (2020): Pandemics Depress the Economy, Public Health Interventions Do Not: Evidence from the 1918 Flu, [https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract\\_id=3561560](https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=3561560).

Mitze, T., Kosfeld, R., Rode, J. and K. Wälde (2020): Face Masks Considerably Reduce Covid-19 Cases in Germany: A Synthetic Control Method Approach, IZA Discussion Paper No. 13319.

**8. Digitization and public health: Blessing or curse?**

Ahmed, N. et al. (2020): A Survey of COVID-19 Contact Tracing Apps, *IEEE Access* 8, 134577-134601.

Johnson, N. F. et al. (2020): The online competition between pro- and anti-vaccination views, *Nature* 582, 230-233.