

# Good Economics for Hard Times

Bachelor Seminar, Summer 2020

## Basic Information

- Instructors: Sebastian Findeisen and teaching assistant. Office hours will be announced in the first meeting.
- Time and location:
  - Introductory Session: Monday, April 20, 15:15, Room: tdb
  - Block seminar: Friday, June 19 and Saturday, June 20
- Grading (planned, might change slightly): term paper (50%), presentation (30%), active participation in class (20%)

## 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).