

Master Seminar Behavioral Public Economics

Urs Fischbacher

Summer semester 2015

Overview

Behavioral economics investigates empirical deviations from economic standard theory, e.g. social preferences, loss aversion with respect to reference point or time inconsistent behavior and self-control problems. In this seminar, we discuss how these deviations affect issues related to public economics. This includes topics like charitable giving, the provision of public goods, taxation or nudging.

Requirements

- Talk of 60-70 minutes; participation in the discussion.
- Seminar thesis of 15 to 20 pages. For the grade, the talk values 40%, oral participation 10 % and the thesis 50%.

Required knowledge

- Good knowledge of game theory.

Schedule

Preliminary meeting: F208, 14. April 2015, 18:45 – 19:45.

Seminar: Thursday/Friday 11./12. June 2015, TWI, Hauptstrasse 90, Kreuzlingen, Switzerland.

Registration

Please send an email to Madeleine Hafner <madeleine.hafner@uni-konstanz.de>. Give a preference order of the topics that you would be willing to present. We will assign the topics at the end of January using an incentive compatible procedure. Later application will be allocated on the basis that first come first served.

Topics

1. **Measuring welfare**
2. **Social comparison and happiness**
3. **Charitable Giving**
4. **Public goods: voluntary contributions**
5. **Public goods: mechanisms**
6. **Optimal taxation**
7. **Tax evasion**
8. **Mental accounting**
9. **Selfcontrol**
10. **Saving**
11. **Addiction**
12. **Nudging and libertarian paternalism**