Summer School in Law & Economics 2023

University of Hamburg
May 29th – June 23rd

Institute of Law and Economics
May 29 – June 2

JUN. PROF. EVA VAN DER ZEE, HAMBURG UNIVERSITY

BEHAVIORAL LAW AND ECONOMICS

This course provides an advanced survey and discussion of a number of current topics and debates in behavioral law and economics. We will read and analyze recent scholarly contributions by legal scholars, cognitive scientists, and behavioral economists. The aim is threefold:

I. Students will become familiar with the basic notions in behavioral law and economics.
II. Students will learn to analyze law through the lens of behavioral science.
III. Students will improve their understanding of scholarly contributions by legal scholars, behavioral economists, and psychologists.

Example topics include how to incorporate insights from cognitive science and behavioral economics in legal interpretation and application, the methodological and normative limitations of including behavioral law and economics, the current role of cognitive science and behavioral economics in legal analysis and avenues for further research.

Eva van der Zee is a Junior Professor (Tenure Track) in International Law with a focus on Behavioral Law and Economics at the Institute of Law and Economics at Hamburg University Faculty of Law since 2019. Her current research focuses on the role and interrelation of formal and informal legal systems in promoting sustainable development using insights from the social sciences, in particularly behavioral economics, social psychology, and sociology. Eva has published articles in the Journal of World Trade, World Competition Law and Economic Review, German Law Journal, American Journal of International Law Unbound and Sustainability, amongst others. In addition, she has advised governmental institutions on the role of law and policy to promote sustainable development. She is the co-founder of BRAIN (Behavioral Research Approaches in International Law Network) and the ESIL (European Society of International Law) Interest Group on Social Sciences and International Law.
EMPirical RESEARCH ON THE EFFECTS OF LEGAL INSTITUTIONS OF economic activity

In this course, we will review the latest empirical research on the effects of legal institutions on the process of economic development. This will include reviewing the latest state-of-the-art empirical techniques used in the literature (difference-in-differences, randomized experiments). We will apply these techniques to the micro datasets available on the topic using stata, such that the students will be able to undertake their own research on the topic.

Basic knowledge of stata is a plus but not a prerequisite.

Matthieu Chemin is an Associate Professor of Economics at McGill University in Canada. His research focuses on exploring the conditions conducive to economic development, such as the quality of institutions (judiciary), infrastructure (electricity), and markets (credit, insurance, labor). He uses rigorous microeconometric techniques on secondary data, or data collected by his research team in the field. He founded ELIMU (EvaLuation IMpact Unit) in 2006 in Kenya. His research has been published in journals such as Journal of Development Economics, Journal of Public Economics, Journal of Economic Behavior & Organization, Review of Economics and Statistics, World Development, Journal of Population Economics and Journal of Law and Economics.
This course will start with an introduction to the main principles of contract law and related obligations (with reference to both Civil law and Common law contract law). The aim of this course is to teach students how to utilize the tools of economic analysis and mechanism design to better understand the effects of contract rules on parties incentives. Students will acquire skills for the “design” of contracts to allow parties to achieve their desired outcome. Readings and lectures will focus on the sustainability of cooperation and avoidance of opportunistic behavior in contractual relations, effect of alternative remedies on breach and reliance incentives, asymmetric information problems and their remedial solutions, and will provide a general knowledge of contract design and the effective use of signaling and screening mechanisms. The course is tailored to doctoral students who wish to deepen their understanding of the economics of contracts and to legal scholars and professionals who want to understand how contracts can be designed so that parties can reach their goals.
This course presents a selection of research exploring the consequences of political institutions. Such institutions are “the rules of the political game”, which both enable and constrain political life. The course is organized on the basis of these eleven consequences: satisfaction of the public interest, growth and development, government size, taxation, property rights, environmental protection, life and voter satisfaction, personal freedom, female empowerment, integration, and income inequality.

Among the political institutions affecting these are: democracy, direct democracy, democratic capital, the electoral system, the form of government, checks and balances, gender quotas, fiscal rules, the size of the legislature, and voting rules.

In addition to six lectures on the consequences listed above, in which it is explained how various political institutions are related to them, there is an introductory lecture presenting the main concepts and a concluding lecture focusing on whether institutions can and do change, as well as two colloquia during which the participants discuss the readings.

The purpose of the course is to stimulate an interest in political institutions as a research program by showing that they matter for outcomes many of us care about.

Niclas Berggren is Associate Professor of Economics at the Research Institute of Industrial Economics (IFN), where he is the director for the research program Institutions, Markets and Enterprise. He is also at the Department of Economics at the Prague University of Economics and Business. His work has been published in Journal of Economic Behavior & Organization, Journal of Institutional Economics, Journal of Public Economics, European Journal of Political Economy, Public Choice, Kyklos, Journal of Comparative Economics, European Journal of Law and Economics, and others.
Applications

The Summer School provides a seminar atmosphere with groups not larger than 25 participants. Therefore, the number of places for each course is limited. The courses are free of charge and open to doctoral students only. Doctoral students can apply for the whole Summer School as well as for one or some courses in the program. To apply, please send your course preferences including a short description on how this relates to your research and a CV to summerschool@ile-hamburg.de by April 20.

Materials and Housing

Reading materials will be made accessible free of charge online. Please note that the University of Hamburg cannot assist participants in finding accommodation and financial support to attend the Summer School.

For updates on times and venues, please visit www.ile-hamburg.de

Contact

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European Doctorate in Law and Economics

The European Doctorate in Law & Economics is one of the largest doctorate programs in the field of Law and Economics. It is a joint doctoral program by four of the leading European universities: the Universities of Bologna, Hamburg, Rennes 1 and Rotterdam. The stipend-based program aims at addressing a new class of outstanding PhD researchers from all over the world. The EDLE is sponsored by the DAAD. In Hamburg, the program is chaired by Prof. Dr. Stefan Voigt.

For more information, please visit www.edle-phd.eu