Topics for Master Theses

The here mentioned “topics” are to be understood as topic fields from which you, together with your supervisor, choose a specific problem or question for your thesis.

Generally, you are welcome to propose your own topic. In this case, we require from you an exposé of approximately one page length outlining the problem you wish to address, its economic relevance, and the methods you intend to deploy.

In order to get a better feel for which topics (and methods) we might be willing to supervise, you should first consult the list of Master Theses that we have supervised in the recent past. You can find this list on our chair’s homepage.

The economic role of the state in the ‘Digital Age’

The term ‘digitization’ relates to the combination of ‘big data mining’, ‘robotics’, and ‘artificial intelligence’ in the production of goods and services. Also from a public economics perspective, ‘digitization’ raises several interesting and important questions.

The following list briefly outlines some of the aspects that deserve consideration.

- The political economy of crypto-currencies
- The economic consequences of perfect price discrimination
- Anti-trust policy in the transition towards a ‘digitized’ industry
- Taxation and regulation of ‘the big five’
- The future of labor
- The role of information: Decentralization vs. Centralization
- The Chinese ‘Social Credit Score’

Empirical Economic Research

Collecting data has become easier and more efficient than ever before, providing new opportunities for economic research: With large amounts of data being available, it is now possible to test theoretical predictions in the field; furthermore, one can derive new theories and economic models from existing data. In order to use data effectively, econometric methods are deployed.

An empirical Master Thesis covers an econometric method. First, the method and its properties will be introduced. Then, based on the method described and with the help of statistical software, an economic data set is will be analyzed.

Some possible methods and data sets are:

- Econometric methods: Ordinary Least Squares, Difference-in-Differences Estimation, Regression Discontinuity Design, Probit/Logit Model
- Data sets: Income and Consumption Survey, Data from professional football, Eurostat, OECD, World Bank
Migration and its Economic Consequences

The economic analysis of migration addresses (both theoretically and empirically) the consequences of migration for destination countries, countries of origin, and migrants themselves. A Master Thesis in this field might deal with the impact of migration on the economic development of countries of origin or destination, or with the economic consequences of different migration policies.