

35862 Population Economics

module number
35862
module title
Population Economics
module coordinator
Prof. Dr. Stefan Bauernschuster

examination number	credit points (ECTS)	hours per week (SWS)
274150	5	2+2
availability	duration	recommended semester
Summer semester	1 semester	2

workload
Lecture 2 SWS (30 hours class instruction; 45 hours self-study) Uebung 2 SWS (30 hours class instruction; 45 hours self-study)
Calculation is based on: every hr./sem.-week corresponds to 60 minutes. One semester is presumed to be 15 weeks, i.e. 14 course + 1 exam week
module applicability
Modulgruppe D: Governance, Institutions and Development
reference to the LPO I
recommended requirements
Solid knowledge in (undergraduate) microeconomics Solid knowledge in microeconometrics, in particular quasi-experimental methods
obligatory requirements
language
English

content
We start the lecture with a look into the period from 1300 to 1800 and investigate the Malthusian theory of population and the question to which degree the Great Plague affected mortality, fertility and income per person. Then, we move to the end of the 19th and the beginning of the 20th century, when Western countries experienced a massive decline in fertility and mortality rates, and analyze the driving forces behind this great demographic transition. In the second half of the 20th century, we observe a further decline in fertility, which is often ascribed to the emergence of the birth control pill. At the same time, education and female labor supply substantially rose, and the age at which people married increased. We analyze these developments using Becker's theory of fertility (quantity-quality trade-off), Katz and Goldin's economic theory of the pill as well as theories of the division of labor within families and (female) labor supply and a rich set of empirical studies on these issues. In recent decades, family policies have been adapted to enhance the reconciliation of work and family life and thus support females' position in the labor market. Apart from analyzing the impact of these policies, we aim at understanding to which degree discrimination still weakens women's position in labor

markets. Finally, we put the focus on international migration which plays an important role in population dynamics and changing labor markets. Here, we first use Roy's model for the selection of migrants to understand who migrates and then analyze the impact of migration on destination countries' labor markets using both theory and empirics.

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- Chapter 1: Introduction
- Chapter 2: Malthusian theory of population
- Chapter 3: Mortality transition
- Chapter 4: Fertility transition
- Chapter 5: Economic effects of the „pill“
- Chapter 6: Gender differences in labor supply and wages
- Chapter 7: Discrimination in the labor market
- Chapter 8: Evaluation of family policies
- Chapter 9: Migration

intended learning outcomes (ILOs)

Students who have successfully participated in the module are able to

- describe the major areas of population economics and place them in historical context
- outline and critically discuss the main theoretical models in the field of population economics
- analyze and interpret the empirical evidence on the topics discussed, distinguish correlation from causality, and evaluate empirical studies with respect to their merits and problems
- draw policy relevant conclusions and participate in well-informed debates in the area of the population economics
- communicate research findings effectively in oral and written formats

teaching methods

Classroom lecture with interactive elements (Vorlesung mit Seminarcharakter)
 Übung with tutorials and student presentations

required attendance

examination (type of examination, scope)

Final exam (90 minutes)
 or portfolio (final exam (90 minutes) and oral presentation)

overall grade relevance

100% final exam or 80% final exam and 20% oral presentation

possibility of retake exam

reading list

- Alsan, M., Goldin, C. (2019), Watersheds in Infant Mortality: The Role of Effective Water and Sewerage Infrastructure, 1880 to 1920, *Journal of Political Economy*, 127(2), 586-638.
- Bailey, M. (2006), More Power to the Pill: The Impact of Contraceptive Freedom on Women's Life Cycle Labor Supply, *The Quarterly Journal of Economics*, 121(1), 289-320.
- Bailey, M. (2010), "Momma's Got the Pill": How Anthony Comstock and Griswold v. Connecticut Shaped US Childbearing, *American Economic Review*, 100(1), 98-129.
- Bauernschuster, S., Driva, A., Hornung, E. (2020), Bismarck's Health Insurance and the Mortality Decline, *Journal of the European Economic Association*, 18(5), 2561-2607.
- Bauernschuster, S., Hener, T., Rainer, H. (2016), Children of a (Policy) Revolution: The Introduction of Universal Child Care and its Effect on Fertility, *Journal of the European Economic Association*, 14 (4), 975-1005.
- Bauernschuster, S., Schlotter, M. (2015), Public Child Care and Mothers' Labor Supply - Evidence from Two Quasi Experiments, *Journal of Public Economics*, 123, 1-16

- Bertrand, M., Goldin, C., Katz, L., (2010), Dynamics of the Gender Gap for Young Professionals in the Financial and Corporate Sectors, *American Economic Journal: Applied Economics*, 2(3), 228-55.
- Black, S., Devereux, P., Salvanes, K. (2005), The More the Marrier? The Effect of Family Size and Birth Order on Children's Education, *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, 120(2), 669-700.
- Boeri, T., van Ours, J. (2008), *The Economics of Imperfect Labor Markets*, Princeton: Princeton University Press.
- Borjas, G. (2013), *Labor Economics*, New York: McGraw-Hill.
- Cavalcanti, T., Tavares, J. (2008), Assessing the „Engines of Liberation“: Home Appliances and Female Labor Force Participation“, *Review of Economics and Statistics*, 90 (1), 81-88.
- Clark, G. (2007), *A Farewell to Alms: A Brief Economic History of the World*, Princeton: Princeton University Press.
- Cutler, D., Deaton, A., Lleras-Muney, A. (2006), The Determinants of Mortality, *Journal of Economic Perspectives*, 20(3), 97- 120.
- Doepke, M., Hannusch, A., Kindermann, F., Tertilt, M. (2022), *The Economics of Fertility: A New Era*, NBER Working Paper 29948.
- Dorn, D., Zweimüller, J. (2021), Migration and Labor Market Integration in Europe, *Journal of Economic Perspectives*, 35(2), 49-76.
- Dustmann, C., Schönberg, U., Stuhler, J. (2017), Labor Supply Shocks, Native Wages, and the Adjustment of Local Employment, *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, 132(1), 435-483.
- Ehrenberg, R.G., Smith, R.S. (2013), *Modern Labor Economics*, Boston: Prentice Hall.
- Ermisch, J. (2003), *An Economic Analysis of the Family*, Princeton: Princeton University Press.
- Galor, O. (2005), From Stagnation to Growth: Unified Growth Theory, in: Aghion, Philippe, Durlauf, Steven, *Handbook of Economic Growth*, Vol.1A, 171-293.
- Goldin, C. (1984), The Historical Evolution of Female Earnings Functions and Occupations, *Explorations in Economic History*, 21, 1-27.
- Goldin, C., Katz, L. (2002), The Power of the Pill: Oral Contraceptives and Women's Career and Marriage Decisions, *Journal of Political Economy*, 110(4), 730-770
- Goldin, C., Rouse, C. (2000), Orchestrating Impartiality: The Impact of „Blind“ Auditions on Female Musicians, *American Economic Review*, 90(4), 715-741.
- Kleven, H., Landais, C., Posch, J., Steinhauer, A., Zweimüller, J. (2019) c, *American Economic Review Papers & Proceedings*, 109, 122-126
- Malthus, T. R. (1826), *Essay on the Principle of Population*, London: John Murray.
- Olivetti, C., Petrongolo, B. (2008), Unequal Pay or Unequal Employment? A Cross-Country Analysis of the Gender Gaps, *Journal of Labor Economics*, 26(4), 621-654.
- Parey, M., Ruhose, J., Waldinger, F., Netz, N. (2017), The Selection of High-Skilled Emigrants, *The Review of Economics and Statistics*, 99(5), 776-792.
- Voigtländer, N., Voth, H.-J. (2009), Malthusian Dynamism and the Rise of Europe: Make War, Not Love, *American Economic Review: Papers and Proceedings*, 99(2), 248-254.

additional notes

Exam questions can be answered in English or German