

As of July 21, 2008

# SILVAPLANA 2008

## 17<sup>th</sup> Workshop on Political Economy

**Wednesday 15.00 pm July 23 – Sunday 13.00 pm July 27**  
**Conference Room**  
**Albana Hotel, Silvaplana, Switzerland**

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**Organizer:** Carsten Hefeker, University of Siegen  
**Workshop administrator:** Helen Ovadia, Bar-Ilan University

**Program committee:** Toke S. Aidt, University of Cambridge  
Hans Peter Grüner, University of Mannheim  
Arye L. Hillman, Bar-Ilan University

**Nut cake committee:** Jakob de Haan, University of Groningen  
Heinrich W. Ursprung, University of Konstanz

### Notes

1. Authors have a strict limit of 20 minutes to present their papers.
2. Discussants have a strict limit of 5 minutes to open the discussion.
3. Authors (and discussants, if applicable) should be present in the conference room to place their presentation files on the computer 15 minutes before the beginning of the first session of the day.

# PROGRAM

## DAY 1: WEDNESDAY JULY 23

**15.30 pm Welcome**

### **Session 1: Chair, Jakob de Haan**

**15.45 pm**

- ◆ **Jo Thori Lind**, University of Oslo, “*The Political Economy of Beliefs: Why Fiscal and Social Conservatives and Liberals Come Hand-in-Hand*” (with Daniel L. Chen)  
Discussant: *Björn Frank*

**16.20 pm**

- ◆ **Martin Strieborný**, University of Lausanne, “*Culture, Beliefs and the Inequality-Growth Nexus*”  
Discussant: *Yariv Welzman*

--- **BREAK: 16.55 - 17.15 pm**

### **Session 2: Chair, Toke Aidt**

**17.15 pm**

- ◆ **Justina Fischer**, Stockholm School of Economics, “*Decentralization as a Disincentive for Transnational Terror? An Empirical Test*” (with Axel Dreher, KOF-ETH Zurich)  
Discussant: *Arthur Fishman*

**17.50 pm**

- ◆ **Martin Gassebner**, KOF-ETH Zurich, “*International Terrorism, Political Instability and the Escalation Hypothesis*” (with Nauro Campos, Brunel University, CEPR, IZA, WDI-Michigan)  
Discussant: *Jakob de Haan*

--- **18.25 pm – END**

--- **19.00 pm – DINNER at the hotel**

**DAY 2: THURSDAY JULY 24**

**7.30 am - BREAKFAST**

**Session 3: Chair, Roland Vaubel**

**8.45 am**

**Björn Frank**, University of Kassel, "*The Demand for Transparency: An Empirical Note*" (with Hans Pitlik, Austrian Institute of Economic Research (WIFO) Vienna and Mathias Firchow, Clausthal University of Technology)

- ◆ Discussant: *Friedrich Schneider*

**9.20 am**

**Silke A. Friedrich**, University of Oregon, "*The Evolution of Economic Rent Seeking*"

- ◆ Discussant: *Carsten Hefeker*

**9.55 am**

**Pierre-Guillaume Méon**, Université Libre de Bruxelles, "*The Not So Dark Side of Trust: Does Trust Increase Participation in the Shadow Economy?*" (with Johanna D'Hernoncourt)

- ◆ Discussant: *Toke Aidt*

--- **10.30 am – 10.55 am COFFEE BREAK**

**Session 4: Chair, Hans Peter Grüner**

**10.55 am**

**Maik Schneider**, CER-ETH Zurich, "*Tax Contracts and Government Formation*" (with Hans Gersbach)

- ◆ Discussant: *Michael Funk*

**11.30 am**

**Alessandro Balestrino**, University of Pisa, "*Tax Avoidance and the Endogenous Formation of Social Norms*"

- ◆ Discussant: *Soumyanetra Munshi*

--- **12.05 pm – END**

--- **12.20 pm – MEET OUTSIDE HOTEL**

--- **19.00 pm – DINNER**

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**21.00 pm – AFTER-DINNER PAPER**

**Chair, Heinrich Ursprung**

**Friedrich Schneider**, "*Organized Crime and Money Laundering: What Do We Know?*"

**DAY 3: FRIDAY JULY 25**

**7.30 am - BREAKFAST**

**Session 5: Chair, Friedrich Schneider**

**8.45 am**

**Raquel Fernandez**, New York University, “*Women’s Rights and Fertility*”

◆ Discussant: *Arye Hillman*

**9.20 am**

**Jörg Franke**, Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, “*Does Affirmative Action Reduce Effort Incentives? A Contest Game Analysis*”

◆ Discussant: *Heinrich Ursprung*

**9.55 am**

**Soumyanetra Munshi**, Rutgers University, “*Enfranchisement from a Political Perspective*”

◆ Discussant: *Giuseppe Russo*

--- **10.30 am – 10.55 am COFFEE BREAK**

**Session 6: Chair, Jan-Egbert Sturm**

**10.55 am**

**Lena Calahorrano**, RWTH Aachen University, “*Aging and Immigration Policy in a Representative Democracy*” (with Oliver Lorz)

◆ Discussant: *Pierre-Guillaume Méon*

**11.30 am**

**Giuseppe Russo**, University of Salerno, Italy, “*Barriers to Immigration and Cultural Homogeneity: Is Anything Wrong?*” (with Dimitrios Christelis)

◆ Discussant: *Christoph Lülfesmann*

--- **12.05 pm – END**

--- **12.20 pm – MEET OUTSIDE HOTEL**

--- **19.00 pm – DINNER**

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**21.00 pm – AFTER-DINNER PAPER**

**Chair, Carsten Hefeker**

*Jan-Egbert Sturm*, KOF-ETH Zurich, “*When is a Central Bank Governor Replaced*”

**DAY 4: SATURDAY JULY 26**

**7.30 am - BREAKFAST**

**Session 7: Chair, Arye Hillman**

**8.45 am**

**Silvia Marchesi**, University of Milano-Bicocca, “*Agency and Communication Problems in IMF Conditional Lending*” (with Laura Sabani, University of Florence)

- ◆ Discussant: *Jan-Egbert Sturm*

**9.20 am**

**Axel Dreher**, KOF-ETH Zurich, “*Does Membership in International Organizations Increase Governments’ Credibility? A Test on the Effects of Delegating Powers*” (with Stefan Voigt, University of Kassel)

- ◆ Discussant: *Roland Vaubel*

**9.55 am**

**Yariv Welzman**, Bar-Ilan University, “*Disinformation and Persistence of Ineffective Aid*”

- ◆ Discussant: *Martin Gassebner*

--- **10.30 am – 10.55 am COFFEE BREAK**

**Session 6: Chair, Raquel Fernandez**

**10.55 am**

**Patricia Funk**, Universitat Pompeu Fabra, “*How do Electoral Systems Affect Fiscal Policy? Evidence from State and Local Governments*” (with Christina Gathmann, Stanford University)

- ◆ Discussant: *Axel Dreher*

**11.30 am**

**Antoine Loeper**, Northwestern University, “*Federal Directives and Local Discretion*”

- ◆ Discussant: *Thomas Moutos*

--- **12.05 pm – END**

--- **12.20 pm – MEET OUTSIDE HOTEL**

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**21.00 pm – AFTER-DINNER PAPER**

**Chair: Thomas Moutos**

**Roland Vaubel**, University of Mannheim, “*Constitutional Courts as Promoters of Political Centralization: Lessons for the European Court of Justice*”

**DAY 5: SUNDAY JULY 27**

**7.30 am - BREAKFAST**

**Session 9: Chair, Heinrich Ursprung**

**8.45 am**

**Michael Funk**, University of Fribourg, "*It's the Challenger, Stupid! Elections and the Theory of Rank-Order Tournaments*" (with Reiner Eichenberger)

- ◆ Discussant: *Hans Peter Grüner*

**9.20 am**

**Bernhard Klingen**, University of Mannheim, "*Disproportionality and Exclusion: Reconsidering the Theory of Alliances*"

- ◆ Discussant: *Raquel Fernandez*

**9.55 am**

**Christoph Lülfsmann**, Simon Fraser University, "*Dual Provision of Public Goods in Democracy*"

- ◆ Discussant: *Carsten Hefeker*

**--- 10.30 am – 10.55 am COFFEE BREAK**

**Session 10: Chair, Arthur Fishman**

**10.55 am**

**Monica Escaleras**, Florida Atlantic University, "*Corruption and Voter Participation: Evidence from the U.S. States*" (with Peter T. Calcagno, College of Charleston and William F. Shughart II, University of Mississippi)

- ◆ Discussant: *Christina Kolerus*

**11.30 am**

**Christian Bruns**, University of Goettingen, "*It's the Media, Stupid – How Media Activity Shapes Public Spending*" (with Oliver Himmler)

- ◆ Discussant: *Justina Fischer*

**--- 12.05 NUT CAKE\* AND COFFEE**

\* The nut cake is sponsored by the author(s) of the paper that is judged furthest from "political economy".