

Master Seminar – Regional Economic Development

Most countries in the world are characterized by strong regional disparities. In Germany in particular, there are large differences in economic performance between the new and old federal states, but also between North and South or between cities and rural regions. One aim of regional economic development is to reduce these differences and establish the equality of living conditions throughout Germany as envisaged in the Basic Law. In this semester, we will examine in a Master seminar where these differences come from and which possibilities exist for compensating them through appropriate political measures. Some of the questions we will discuss in the seminar are:

- How do strong and weak regions differ within a country?
- Which factors are responsible for long-term consistent regional development disparities within a country?
- There are internationally prominent examples of long-term consistent regional differences in development, e.g. in Italy or the USA. How did these differences arise? Why are they so persistent?
- What instruments do the EU and the federal government use to compensate for regional differences? Which instruments are available at the level of the federal states and the municipalities to promote regional economic development?
 - Examples: Regional tax concessions and subsidies, cluster formation in future technologies, regional importance of universities, public infrastructure investments (transport, telecommunications, social services, ...), education and labor market policy, migration, housing policy
- What does empirical economic research say? What works, what doesn't?
 - What is the experience in Germany?
 - What can Germany learn from experiences of other countries?

These and other topics are examined in the seminar with the help of basic and current research papers. The basic literature on the respective topics is provided by the chair.

Preliminary schedule

In the first week of lectures (09 April 2020) the seminar topics are assigned. The weekly seminar sessions begin after an approximately four-week reading-in period. In each session, several students will present their topics and discuss them with the group. At the latest one week after the end of the lecture period (17 July 2020) the participants will hand in a seminar paper (approx. 15 pages) on their topic.

Registration for the Master seminar: Please apply to participate in the seminar by submitting your transcript of grades as well as a brief motivational letter to sabine.wolf@ovgu.de until 15 March 2020.