

Selected Topics on Monetary Macroeconomics, Financial Crises and Coordination

Topic in the summer term 2019:

Sustainable Growth

Seminar for Bachelor and Master Students

During the last century, mankind experienced an unprecedented and continuing growth in economic activity. Simultaneously, we observed an increase in natural disasters, droughts, famines and resource scarcity. Critics of this development insist on rethinking the permanent call for economic growth and the way of how we treat our environment.

Sustainable growth can be defined as satisfying the needs and improving the well-being of humans without exhausting natural resources at the expense of future generations and the environment. However, on closer examination, it remains ambiguous what this means: To what extent can capital substitute for natural resources? How many resources should we use overall? What capital stock and how much environmental damage should be left to future generations? What development in technology, infrastructure and public investment is needed to facilitate an ecologically sustainable economy? What kind of regulatory and policy measures (taxes, tariffs, subsidies, property rights) help to achieve environmental objectives? These questions encompass lots of various aspects of all social sciences. For example, the recent winners of the Nobel Prize in economics, William Nordhaus and Paul Romer, show how the integration of technological innovations and climate change in long-run macroeconomic models allows to study the sources as well as the constraints of economic growth. However, the seminar will also address some more fundamental questions: Do we need economic growth and are there any limits to it? Should we maximize GDP or are there alternative measures for well-being and prosperity?

To answer these questions seminar participants will elaborate and evaluate the different concepts and implications of sustainable growth in the economics literature including insights from growth theory, environmental economics, happiness economics and many more. All participants independently work on an initial set of questions and present their results in the course of the semester in the form of a presentation and a written seminar paper. Participation in the discussion counts for the final grading.

Organizational matters:

For registration please send the completed application form from the [chair's website](#) via email to r.geismar@tu-berlin.de until 4th April 2019. The initial meeting will take place on Friday, 5th April 2019, at 14:15-15:45 in room H 0106.