

Seminar (SS2020)

FG Makroökonomie, Prof. Dr. Frank Heinemann
FG Ökonomie des öffentlichen Sektors, insb. Gesundheitsökonomie, Prof. Dr. Marco Runkel

Modules:

„Ausgewählte Fragen der Makroökonomik und Außenwirtschaft“ (B.Sc.)
„Ausgewählte Fragen zu Monetärer Makroökonomik, Finanzkrisen und Koordination“ (M.Sc.)

Sustainable Growth

Seminar for Bachelor and Master students

Continuous worldwide economic growth and its concomitant increase in the consumption of natural resources impose an increasing burden on our environment and the livelihoods of many people. Recent examples such as extreme weather conditions, forest fires, famines, social conflicts etc. provide a foretaste of the seriousness of the challenges that we will face in the future. Critics warn that we cannot carry on like this for much longer. They stress that we need to fundamentally reconsider the way we live and consume and what burdens we expose ourselves and the environment to.

That this problem has also been recognized by economists is shown not only by the award of the 2018 Nobel Prize in Economics to the economists William Nordhaus and Paul Romer who addressed climate change and technological progress in their research. Ever since the “Club of Rome” published its study “The Limits of Growth” in 1972 the concept of sustainable (economic) growth has been discussed in expert circles. In its broadest sense the term refers to a decoupling of growth and resource consumption that is essentially driven by technological progress. The latter leads to improved products and more efficient manufacturing processes making a reduced use of resources and production of climate-damaging emissions possible.

How can one satisfy the needs of people without depleting natural resources at the expense of future generations and the environment? To what extent can capital replace natural resources and how many resources are we allowed to use? What capital stock and how much environmental damage should we leave to subsequent generations? What control mechanisms (taxes, customs, subsidies, and property rights) can be used to achieve environmental objectives? What is the role of technological progress in this and how can it help to shape the economy in an ecologically sustainable way?

In the course of the seminar we shall try and answer these and other relevant questions. Students will discuss and critically evaluate various aspects of sustainable growth in the economic literature. To this end students will have to provide answers to specific research questions and present their results in form of an oral presentation and a seminar paper. In addition, participation in discussions will contribute to the overall grade.

Organizational matters:

Participants are required to register for the seminar per e-mail. Please, send the completed registration form by 2 April 2020 to Rouven Geismar at r.geismar@tu-berlin.de. You can download the registration form on the [website](#) of the Chair of Macroeconomics. There will be a preparatory meeting on Friday, 3 April 2020 from 12:00 to 14:00 in room H0107.