

**Prof. Dr. Volker Meier**  
**LS (Seminar) ifo**  
**Sommersemester/summer semester 2026**

The seminar deals with various positive and normative issues in the sphere of social insurance. Its key question is how typical features of benefit schemes in various branches of social insurance (public pensions, unemployment insurance and long-term care insurance) can be rationalized, and whether there is scope for efficiency-related improvement. Relevant issues comprise setting appropriate incentives against early retirement, the evolution of pensions in an ageing society, inducing an efficient mix of informal and formal long-term care, determining the timeline of unemployment benefits, including its eligibility period, and whether and how short-time work benefits may be part of unemployment insurance. Moreover, we consider the pro and cons of organizing unemployment insurance on a centralized (supranational) vs. decentralized level.

We will try to answer these questions by studying theoretically orientated contributions dealing with these various aspects of the economics of social insurance.

<b>Studiengang:</b> <i>Program:</i>	MSc
<b>Termin Vorbesprechung (tt.mm.jjjj):</b> <i>Date of preliminary meeting (dd.mm.yyyy):</i>	May 21, 2026
<b>*Bearbeitungszeitraum für die Hausarbeit:</b> <i>*Working period for term paper:</i>	May 27- June 24, 2026
<b>*Seminartermin:</b> <i>*Seminar date:</i>	July 3-4, 2026
<b>Veranstaltungsort:</b> <i>Venue:</i>	LMU
<b>falls außerhalb: Kostenschätzung:</b> <i>if out of Munich: estimated costs:</i>	0 €
<b>Sprache:</b> <i>Language:</i>	English
<b>Empfohlene Vorkenntnisse:</b> <i>Recommended courses:</i>	Public Economics
<b>Methodischer Schwerpunkt:</b> <i>Methodological background:</i>	Applied Economic Theory, Public Economics
<b>*Grundlagenliteratur:</b> <i>*Basic references:</i>	Rosner, P. G. (2003) The Economics of Social Policy. Edward Elgar: Cheltenham
<b>*Kontakt:</b> <i>Contact:</i>	meier@ifo.de

\* Optional (falls schon bekannt) / optionally (if already known)