

Power, Politics and History

Prof. Davide Cantoni

LS (Seminar)

Wintersemester/winter semester 2026/27

The seminar will examine the impact of technological changes on labor markets, incomes, and political outcomes in the very long run. It will take an explicitly broad perspective, bringing together insights from economic history and political economy, and informed by a theoretical understanding of labor markets and economic growth. We will look at a broad range of historical settings, from Victorian England, to early 20th century cities, to contemporary China.

The students will learn to evaluate empirical analyses critically, and to connect them to the theoretical literature in economics. Importantly, the accompanying books will be required reading for the seminar, and will be integrated in a broader discussion into how historical experiences can inform current public affairs and policymaking, especially in the face of radical technological changes and political turmoil. A lively and constructive participation, based on the literature assigned for your seminar papers and on the three books, will be expected. The seminar will meet in recurring, weekly meetings in January 2027 (as many meetings as needed for all topics).

Studiengang: <i>Program:</i>	BSc
Termin Vorbesprechung (tt.mm.jjjj): <i>Date of preliminary meeting (dd.mm.yyyy):</i>	2026-08-04
*Bearbeitungszeitraum für die Hausarbeit: <i>*Working period for term paper:</i>	During the teaching weeks of the winter term: October-November 2026
*Seminartermin: <i>*Seminar date:</i>	January 2027. We will meet weekly, Fridays from 8-12, for approximately 4–5 weeks.
Veranstaltungsort: <i>Venue:</i>	Munich (LMU Campus)
falls außerhalb: Kostenschätzung: <i>if out of Munich: estimated costs:</i>	€
Sprache: <i>Language:</i>	English
Empfohlene Vorkenntnisse: <i>Recommended courses:</i>	Econometrics I+II
Methodischer Schwerpunkt: <i>Methodological background:</i>	Empirical Economics (special focus on economic history, political economy, growth and innovation)
*Grundlagenliteratur: <i>*Basic references:</i>	• Daron Acemoglu and Simon Johnson (2023): Power and Progress. New York: PublicAffairs • Carl Benedikt Frey (2019): The Technology Trap: Capital, Labor, and Power in the Age of Automation. Princeton, N.J.: Princeton University Press

	• Maximilian Kasy (2025). The Means of Prediction: How AI Really Works (and Who Benefits). Chicago: University of Chicago Press
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* Optional (wenn der genaue Termin nicht bekannt ist, bitte Zeitraum angeben) / optionally (If the exact date is unknown, please provide an approximate time period)