

Growth and Innovation in Economic History

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LS (Seminar) Sunde

Wintersemester/winter semester 2026/27

This seminar aim to understand the technological progress that underpins economic growth from a long-term and historical perspective. Taking such perspective is appropriate for two reasons. First, sustained economic growth driven by technical change did not start yesterday; in fact, many countries in Western Europe and elsewhere experienced the rise of this process during the 19th century. Understanding this will be one of the seminar topics. Second, history offers many settings in which researchers can tackle key questions regarding growth economics and its relationship to technical change. These include questions such as: What is the role of human capital and individual creativity for the accumulation and diffusion of useful knowledge? How can governments steer the rate and direction of innovative activity? Is science a prerequisite for technological progress?

As most papers on the syllabus make heavy use of quantitative research methods, a solid working knowledge of econometrics and macroeconomics (growth theory) is a prerequisite. Prior knowledge of economic history, in contrast, is not required.

Studiengang: <i>Program:</i>	BSc
Termin Vorbesprechung (tt.mm.jjjj): <i>Date of preliminary meeting (dd.mm.yyyy):</i>	t.b.a.
*Bearbeitungszeitraum für die Hausarbeit: <i>*Working period for term paper:</i>	4.09.-2.10.2026
*Seminartermin: <i>*Seminar date:</i>	12.10. & 13.10.2026
Veranstaltungsort: <i>Venue:</i>	LMU
falls außerhalb: Kostenschätzung: <i>if out of Munich: estimated costs:</i>	- €
Sprache: <i>Language:</i>	English
Empfohlene Vorkenntnisse: <i>Recommended courses:</i>	Econometrics 2, Macroeconomics 2
Methodischer Schwerpunkt: <i>Methodological background:</i>	Macroeconomics, Applied Econometrics
*Grundlagenliteratur: <i>*Basic references:</i>	Mokyr, J., 2010. The Contribution of Economic History to the Study of Innovation and Technical Change 1750-1914, in B. H. Hall and N. Rosenberg (eds.), Handbook of the Economics of Innovation - Vol I, pp. 11-50.
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