

Behavioral Public Economics

Prof. Arthur Seibold, PhD
LS (Seminar) Economic and Social Policy
Wintersemester/winter semester 2026/27

Insights from behavioral economics are increasingly applied to a range of topics in public economics. While traditional behavioral economics often relies on experimental evidence, recent research demonstrates that individuals do not behave rationally in many relevant field (real-world) settings. In this seminar, we will discuss a number of classic questions in public economics, such as income taxes, commodity taxes, social transfers, retirement, unemployment insurance and health insurance, from an angle of behavioral economics. The discussion will focus on patterns of deviations from rational behavior, as well as potential consequences for policy design. Students will write a seminar paper and present and discuss their work in the seminar.	
Studiengang: <i>Program:</i>	BSc
Termin Vorbesprechung (tt.mm.jjjj): <i>Date of preliminary meeting (dd.mm.yyyy):</i>	12.10.2026
*Bearbeitungszeitraum für die Hausarbeit: <i>*Working period for term paper:</i>	19.10.2026 - 16.11.2026
*Seminartermin: <i>*Seminar date:</i>	03. - 04.12.2026
Veranstaltungsort: <i>Venue:</i>	LMU Munich
falls außerhalb: Kostenschätzung: <i>if out of Munich: estimated costs:</i>	€
Sprache: <i>Language:</i>	English
Empfohlene Vorkenntnisse: <i>Recommended courses:</i>	Microeconomics 1 and 2, Public Economics (Fiwi) 1 and 2, Empirical Economics 1 and 2
Methodischer Schwerpunkt: <i>Methodological background:</i>	Theory and Empirics
*Grundlagenliteratur: <i>*Basic references:</i>	B. Douglas Bernheim and Dmitry Taubinsky (2018), "Behavioral Public Economics", in Handbook of Behavioral Economics, vol. 1, pp. 381-516. https://doi.org/10.1016/bs.hesbe.2018.07.002
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* Optional (falls schon bekannt) / optionally (if already known)