

The Economics of Long-Term Care

Prof. Dr. Joachim Winter

Seminar für empirische Wirtschaftsforschung

Wintersemester/winter semester 2026/27

This seminar examines the economic dimensions of long-term care (LTC) as one of the most pressing policy challenges facing aging societies. Drawing on recent empirical and theoretical research, we analyze the forces shaping both the demand for and supply of care services across institutional and informal settings.

We begin with demographic projections of how population aging and rising rates of disability and cognitive decline will drive future care needs and expenditures.

The seminar then surveys LTC financing options, including private LTC insurance, public programs, means-tested social assistance, and hybrid savings vehicles, with attention to the well-documented market failures of adverse selection, moral hazard, and catastrophic cost risk that complicate household financial planning.

The seminar further examines the labor market for paid caregivers, covering wage determination, workforce shortages, and the role of immigration policy in sustaining care supply, as well as the economics of unpaid family caregiving: how informal care provision responds to economic incentives and opportunity costs, and what this implies for the lifetime earnings of predominantly female caregivers.

We also investigate efficiency and quality in nursing home markets, exploring how reimbursement schemes, ownership structures, and competitive pressure shape care outcomes.

Finally, we consider the emerging role of artificial intelligence and assistive technologies in augmenting care capacity and supporting aging-in-place, alongside the economic and ethical questions these innovations raise.

Throughout, students will engage with the implications of institutional complexity, behavioral constraints, and technological innovation for private LTC planning and the design of public policy.

Studiengang: <i>Program:</i>	BSc
Termin Vorbesprechung (tt.mm.jjjj): <i>Date of preliminary meeting (dd.mm.yyyy):</i>	7 July 2026
*Bearbeitungszeitraum für die Hausarbeit: <i>*Working period for term paper:</i>	August or September 2026
*Seminartermin: <i>*Seminar date:</i>	30 October, 6 & 13 November 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>	Empirische Ökonomie / Econometrics 1&2
Methodischer Schwerpunkt: <i>Methodological background:</i>	applied microeconomics, microeconometrics

*Grundlagenliteratur: <i>*Basic references:</i>	tba
*Kontakt: <i>Contact:</i>	Christina Meyer (christina.meyer@econ.lmu.de)

* Optional (wenn der genaue Termin nicht bekannt ist, bitte Zeitraum angeben) / optionally (If the exact date is unknown, please provide an approximate time period)