

Law and Economics

1. Topic description

Should we use capital punishment? Is criminalizing drugs a right way to combat addiction? Does more policing decrease crime? How to effectively protect the privacy of internet users? To answer this and more questions scholars and policy makers use Law and Economics. Law and Economics is a study of legal solutions using economic methods, e.g. game theory, information economics, or behavioral economics. It is applied to a variety of topics: criminal law, civil law, intellectual property, law enforcement, market for legal services, design of legal procedures and others.

During this seminar your task will be to write a research proposal for researching the topic of Law and Economics you find relevant. The research proposal can take the form of: **experimental design, empirical strategy** or **theoretical model**.

2. Organisation

In the seminar no topics will be handed out. Instead, students will think of an interesting research question in the broad field of Law and Economics themselves. You will write a research proposal suited to test your hypothesis/answer your research question.

Students will work in groups of up to four, depending on the total number of participants. If the process of group formation is unsuccessful, participants will be assigned. The seminar starts with an introductory meeting. The meeting is supposed to last for approx. 1-1,5h.

Research proposals are presented in blocked events in May 2023. Each presentation should last for max. 20 minutes. Full attendance in all meetings is required for successful participation in the seminar. Seminar papers of approximately 5 pages, are to be handed in by the end of the semester.

Prior attendance to some economic courses (e.g. Game Theory, Behavioral Economics, or Auction and Mechanism Design) is recommended but not required. For further questions, please contact Dr. Danisz Okulicz (danisz.okulicz@kit.edu).

3. Summaries of some recent papers/ interviews with the authors for inspiration

Deterring crime with DNA databases <https://www.aeaweb.org/research/dna-databases-deterrence-detection-doleac>

Slipping into a Kafkaesque state <https://www.aeaweb.org/research/weber-kafkaesque-bureaucracy-legislation>

Incentivizing innovation <https://www.aeaweb.org/research/interim-payment-innovation-contest>

Clean hands and dirty jobs <https://www.aeaweb.org/research/politics-nepotism-business-italy-clean-hands>

Motivated to serve and protect <https://www.aeaweb.org/research/police-trust-applicants-germany>

Lengthy copyrights and orphaned books <https://www.aeaweb.org/research/copyrights-book-publishing-1923>

Good cop bad cop <https://www.aeaweb.org/research/good-cop-bad-cop-chicago-police-civilian-allegations>

Random justice <https://www.aeaweb.org/research/immigration-judge-decisions-outside-temperature-anthony-heyes-interview>

Bias on the bench <https://www.aeaweb.org/research/federal-judicial-appointments-politics-impact-sentencing-decisions>

Partners in crime <https://www.aeaweb.org/research/same-school-social-impact-partners-in-crime>

Fitting punishment to the crime <https://www.aeaweb.org/research/punishment-severity-impact-jury-decisions-britain>

The best defense the money can buy <https://www.aeaweb.org/research/indigent-defendants-choice-matching-legal-counsel>

You have the right to an attorney <https://www.aeaweb.org/research/right-to-legal-counsel-impact-on-crime-israel>

Will legalizing more immigrants reduce crime
<https://www.aeaweb.org/research/legalizing-immigrants-impact-crime-rate>

Why projecting marijuana use after legalization is so difficult

<https://www.aeaweb.org/research/why-projecting-marijuana-use-legalization-so-difficult>

How much privacy is worth to today's consumers

<https://www.aeaweb.org/research/how-much-is-privacy-worth-todays-consumers>

Can corruption make bureaucrats more efficient<https://www.aeaweb.org/research/can-corruption-make-bureaucracies-more-efficient>

Are immigrants less likely to commit crime when they gain legal status

<https://www.aeaweb.org/research/are-immigrants-less-likely-to-commit-crime-legal-status>

Is climate change turning Indonesian fishers to crime

<https://www.aeaweb.org/research/climate-change-indonesian-fishermen-crime>

Are credit histories too revealing <https://www.aeaweb.org/research/are-credit-histories-too-revealing>

How can better property rights improve economy

<https://www.aeaweb.org/research/how-can-better-property-rights>