

University of Göttingen
 Chair of International Economic Policy

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Updated on May 5
 new schedule for progress report meetings

Organization

Course content: The seminar targets advanced bachelor students of economics, discussing topics related to deforestation and forest conservation. Based on recently published empirical papers, it deals with the economic and political causes of deforestation as well as the analysis of effective forest conservation strategies. Each student is required to choose a paper from the list below, which will constitute the primary literature of the seminar paper and has to be presented in the block meeting. Students are required to search for additional literature and discuss the findings of the primary literature within the context of further papers. Additionally, the seminar will introduce basic concepts of scientific writing (and interpreting empirical evidence).

Meeting mode: Meetings are held via video-conference. First sessions will take place via the software [Zoom.us](https://zoom.us). We might have to switch to a different system during the semester, e.g. [BigBlueButton \(BBB\)](https://bigbluebutton.org/). Therefore, please re-check this document regularly. For now please download, install and make yourself familiar with the software beforehand (<https://zoom.us/download>). Meeting IDs will be sent (via StudIP or email) to all participants before each meeting.

Schedule:

	Event	Date	Time
Meeting	Introduction	Tuesday, April 21	10.00-12.00
	Application via StudIP closes	Thursday, April 23	10.00
	Self-selection into papers	Thursday, April 23	12.00
	Registration on FlexNow opens	Thursday, April 23	12.00
Meeting	Scientific writing	Tuesday, April 28	10.00-12.00
	Registration on FlexNow closes	Thursday, April 30	12.00
	Submit progress report	Tuesday, May 12	12.00
	Submit progress report slides	Thursday, May 14	12.00
Meeting	Progress report	Tuesday, May 19	10.00-14.00
	Send interesting tables	Thursday, June 4	12.00
Meeting	Regression tables	Tuesday, June 9	10.00-12.00
	Paper submission deadline	Sunday, June 28	23.59
	Send slides & video	Thursday, July 2	12.00
Meeting	Block seminar	Friday, July 10	9.00-18.00
	1-on-1 evaluation meetings	Tuesday, July 14	9.00-12.00

Course requirements:

- **Attendance to all meetings is obligatory**
- Submission of a progress report (and presentation at the progress report meeting)
- Submission of the final seminar paper (and recorded presentation + presentation during the block seminar)

Progress report:

- 2-page-exposé, and list of references
- Exposé includes: research question, motivation, methodology and outline (structure of paper)
- Upload to the StudIP folder '/upload' as `progress-report.[studentID].pdf`

Progress report presentations:

- Small groups of 2-3
- Each student has 5 minutes to present and another 5 minutes for discussion, prepare short presentation of 3 slides (1. research question, 2. structure, 3. references)
- Schedule:

Group A	burgess.etal2012.tqjoe; alesina.etal2019.e; pailler2018.joeeam	10:00-10:45
Group B	alix-garcia.etal2015; jayachandran.etal2017.s	11:00-11:45
Group C	canaviere-bacarreza.hanauer2013.wd; nolte.etal2013.potnaos;	12:00-12:45

Seminar paper: Submit according to the following rules:

1. Paper is written in english
2. Submit 1 electronic copy of about 15 pages + Appendix;
Send a PDF file directly to elias.cisneros@goettingen.de; valid only upon receiving a confirmation email
3. Motivate your topic at the beginning
4. Briefly summarize your primary literature and discuss at least one central result of the paper, also providing all relevant technical details
5. Make sure your interpretation of the empirical results is correct
6. Find additional literature, contrast it to your main paper, discuss their implications and draw your own conclusion
7. Include a list of references and an appendix with the main statistical tables

Two seminar paper presentation:

A) A 20-minutes presentation according to the following rules:

1. Present the research question of your seminar paper
2. Tell us why it is relevant/interesting
3. Do not go through theoretical models, if necessary, sketch the main argument shortly
4. Explain the main empirical approach of your primary literature (also referring to an estimating equation)
5. Select the main result (e.g. one table), show it and explain it in detail
6. Summarize further results and main types of robustness checks only shortly

7. Tell us at least one thing that you liked/disliked about the primary paper
8. Use about 15 slides (do not overload them);
9. Recorded presentations longer than 20 min will not be considered.
10. Upload your video to the StudIP folder ['/upload](#) as `paper-pres-video.[studentID].pdf`
11. Upload your presentation to the StudIP folder ['/upload](#) as `paper-pres-slides.[studentID].pdf`

B) A 5-minutes presentation during the joint (Zoom-)meeting according to the following rules:

1. Give a super short summary
2. State: Main question, main result, main criticism
3. Discussion will be based on questions prepared by participants. Keep your original slides at hand for additional (more technical questions).
4. No need to upload the slides of this short-presentation

C) Active participation in the seminar:

1. Watch all presentations before the seminar meeting (also look at the slides if necessary)
2. Based on the presentation, prepare (write down) 3 questions that you would like to ask the presenter
3. After each short summary, randomly chosen students will be required to ask questions from the presenter
4. Participate in a discussion

Introductory reading (Not eligible for term papers!)

- **Theoretical concepts:** Angelsen, A. (2007): Forest cover change in space and time: combining the von Thünen and forest transition theories. Policy Research Working Paper Series 4117, The World Bank, Washington, DC
- **Early research on causes:** Pfaff, A. S. (1999): What drives deforestation in the Brazilian Amazon? Evidence from satellite and socioeconomic data. *Journal of Environmental Economics and Management* 37 (1): 26–43
- **Overview on policy instruments:** Lambin, E. F., P. Meyfroidt, X. Rueda, A. Blackman, J. Börner, P. O. Cerutti, T. Dietsch, L. Jungmann, P. Lamarque, J. Lister, N. F. Walker, and S. Wunder (2014): Effectiveness and synergies of policy instruments for land use governance in tropical regions. *Global Environmental Change* 28 (0): 129–140
- **Overview on evaluation strategies:** Ferraro, P. J. and M. M. Hanauer (2014): Advances in measuring the environmental and social impacts of environmental programs. *Annual Review of Environment and Resources* 39 (1): 495–517
- **Introduction to matching estimation:** Ho, D. E., K. Imai, G. King, and E. A. Stuart (2007): Matching as nonparametric preprocessing for reducing model dependence in parametric causal inference. *Political Analysis* 15 (3): 199–236
- **Map on [Global Forest Change](#):** Hansen, M. C., P. V. Potapov, R. Moore, M. Hancher, S. A. Turubanova, A. Tyukavina, D. Thau, S. V. Stehman, S. J. Goetz, T. R. Loveland, A. Kommareddy, A. Egorov, L. Chini, C. O. Justice, and J. R. G. Townshend (2013): High-resolution global maps of 21st-century forest cover change. *Science* 342 (6160): 850–853

Topics and corresponding papers

1. Political causes

- Burgess, R., M. Hansen, B. A. Olken, P. Potapov, and S. Sieber (2012): The political economy of deforestation in the tropics. *The Quarterly Journal of Economics* 127 (4): 1707–1754.
- Alesina, A., C. Gennaioli, and S. Lovo (2019): Public goods and ethnic diversity: Evidence from deforestation in Indonesia. *Economica* 86 (341): 32–66.
- Pailler, S. (2018): Re-election incentives and deforestation cycles in the Brazilian Amazon. *Journal of Environmental Economics and Management* 88: 345–365.

2. Consequences

- Rasolofoson, R. A., M. M. Hanauer, A. Pappinen, B. Fisher, and T. H. Ricketts (2018): Impacts of forests on children’s diet in rural areas across 27 developing countries. *Science Advances* 4 (8): eaat2853.
- Macdonald, A. J. and E. A. Mordecai (2019): Amazon deforestation drives malaria transmission, and malaria burden reduces forest clearing. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* 116 (44): 22,212–22,218.

3. Incentive policies

- Alix-garcia, J. M., K. R. E. Sims, and P. Yañez-pagans (2015): Only one tree from each seed? Environmental effectiveness and poverty alleviation in Mexico’s payments for ecosystem services program. *American Economic Journal: Economic Policy* 7 (4): 1–40.
- Carlson, K. M., R. Heilmayr, H. K. Gibbs, P. Noojipady, D. N. Burns, D. C. Morton, N. F. Walker, G. D. Paoli, and C. Kremen (2017): Effect of oil palm sustainability certification on deforestation and fire in Indonesia. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* 115 (1): 121–126.
- Jayachandran, S., J. De Laat, E. F. Lambin, C. Y. Stanton, R. Audy, and N. E. Thomas (2017): Cash for carbon: A randomized trial of payments for ecosystem services to reduce deforestation. *Science* 357 (6348): 267–273.

4. Disincentive policies

- Börner, J., K. Kis-katos, J. Hargrave, and K. König (2015): Post-crackdown effectiveness of field-based forest law enforcement in the Brazilian Amazon. *PLoS ONE* 10 (4): 1–19.
- Arima, E. Y., P. Barreto, E. Araújo, and B. Soares-filho (2014): Public policies can reduce tropical deforestation: Lessons and challenges from Brazil. *Land Use Policy* 41 (0): 465–473.
- Canavire-Bacarreza, G. and M. M. Hanauer (2013): Estimating the impacts of Bolivia’s protected areas on poverty. *World Development* 41: 265–285.
- Nolte, C., A. Agrawal, K. M. Silvius, and B. S. Soares-filho (2013): Governance regime and location influence avoided deforestation success of protected areas in the Brazilian Amazon. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* 110 (13): 4956–4961

Further resources

- [UniVZ](#)
- [StudIP](#)