Prices: Measurement and Analysis

The seminar reviews recent research on the economics of prices. Online price information is widely available and allows analyses on a never seen level of detail. Based on the data, we discuss improvements in price indices and implications for measures of inflation. We also focus on the stickiness of prices and international relative prices. Further, understanding differences between online and offline prices is on the agenda.

Structure: The seminar will be conducted on a paper discussion basis. A typical session starts with a (25 minutes) presentation of a published paper. This presentation is followed by a (5 minutes) comment. Finally, there will be a class discussion.

Requirements: All participants have to prepare (in English):
- a written review of a published paper (max. 25 pages) (40% of the grading),
- a presentation of the paper in the class (as if they were the author) (40%), and
- a comment on another paper (preparing slides is useful) (10%).

In addition, we expect that all seminar participants are familiar with the paper that is discussed; active class participation is part of your grade (10%). Of course, joining all sessions is mandatory.

Administrative details: The seminar will take place as a “Blockseminar” in presence (or on Zoom) probably in May 2022. Joining all sessions is mandatory. The latest submission of the written review is one month after presenting via email. One printed version has to be submitted within one week after email submission. Delayed submissions are not accepted. The number of participants is restricted to 26 students. For registered participants, we will give further instructions by e-mail and in a brief meeting probably taking place on April 13 at 14:00 (please contact us in case you have not received further information).

Contact: The best way to reach me is to send an email to nitsch@vwl.tu-darmstadt.de. If you have organizational questions, please contact Dr. Johannes Rode: rode@vwl.tu-darmstadt.de.
Literature:
The following list offers a selection of papers. Own proposals are welcome.


