

Freie Universität Berlin  
Department of Economics  
Institute for East European Studies  
Oliver Wach, M.Sc.  
[oliver.wach@fu-berlin.de](mailto:oliver.wach@fu-berlin.de)  
Winter Semester 2023/24

### **Seminar**

Mondays, 14-16, Ihnestr. 22/UG 5 Seminarraum, First date: 16.10.2023

### **Office Hours**

Mondays, 12-14, upon request

### **Modules**

MSc Economics & MSc Public Economics: Topics in Economic Policy Analysis  
MA East European Studies: (V) Methoden der Wirtschaftsgeschichte und der Ressourcenökonomie

## **Polish and Ukrainian Development in a European Context**

This course examines a selection of the major themes in the economic development of Poland and Ukraine. The first part of the course presents and discusses the political and economic environment of the region in the first part of the 20th century und up to World War II. The second part tracks the evolution and decline of the centrally planned economies by underscoring the comparative differences between the two economies under socialism. The third part of the course deals with transition and its challenges as well as with the conflict in Ukraine and the rise of populism in Poland. Final, the course will focus on the European integration of Poland and Ukraine. This course will discuss a set of academic articles on the before-mentioned topics in-depth. Here, a focus is on applied econometric methods and methods such as difference-in-difference, instrumental variables, and regression discontinuity designs are discussed. Students are expected to read the articles for the seminar before class. Students are encouraged to formulate their own research questions, and in the process learn more about what makes a good question. For this, students are asked to search for a historical map and use it to pose a research question in a small group. In a workshop setting, groups present their research ideas and comment on and discuss the ideas of the other groups. Suggestions for additional literature and readings on each topic are provided to assist in formulating a topic for the seminar paper. The grade of the course will be determined by a seminar paper.

### **Regular participation**

75 percent attendance.

### **Active participation**

Group Presentation (20 minutes per Group)

### **Grade**

Seminar Paper: Economics/Public Economics/East European Studies Masters Students.

### **Note**

Depending on the number of students, there may be minor changes in the structure of the course.

## Course Content

### 1. *Introduction and Organization*

#### Before the Revolution and the People's Republics

2. Serfdom and its Abolition in Eastern Europe
3. Pre-Industrial Growth and the "Little Divergence"
4. The Partitions of Poland

#### The Socialist Era

5. An Economic Perspective on the Holodomor
6. Forced Migration
7. Consequences of the Second World War
8. The Enduring Effects of State Repression

#### After the Fall of Socialism

9. The Speed of Transition
10. Persistence of Socialism
11. The Socialist Women
12. *Student Presentations*

#### Facing the European Union

13. The Eastern Enlargement of the European Union
14. Ukraine between Conflict and Integration
15. A Challenge for the EU: Economic of Populism in Poland
16. Implications of the Ukrainian-Russian War for Europe

## Week 1: Introduction and Organization

1. Piatkowski, Marcin (2018): Europe's Growth Champion: Insights from the Economic Rise of Poland
2. Koryś, Piotr (2018): Poland From Partitions to EU Accession: A Modern Economic History, 1772–200

## Part II: Before the Revolution and the People's Republics

### Week 2: Serfdom and its Abolition in Eastern Europe (DiD)

1. Markevich, Andrei, and Ekaterina Zhuravskaya. "The economic effects of the abolition of serfdom: Evidence from the Russian Empire." *American Economic Review* 108.4-5 (2018): 1074-1117. **[Seminar Presentation]**
2. Buggle, Johannes C., and Steven Nafziger. "The slow road from serfdom: labor coercion and long-run development in the former Russian Empire." *Review of Economics and Statistics* (2017): 1-46.
3. Millward, Robert. "An economic analysis of the organization of serfdom in Eastern Europe." *Journal of Economic History* (1982): 513-548.
4. Malinowski, Mikołaj. "Serfs and the city: market conditions, surplus extraction institutions, and urban growth in early modern Poland." *European Review of Economic History* 20.2 (2016): 123-146.
5. Morys, Matthias. "Has Eastern Europe Always Lagged Behind the West? Historical Evidence from Pre-1870." *Review of Income and Wealth* 68 (2022): S3-S21.

### **Week 3: Pre-industrial Growth and the “Little Divergence”**

1. Bukowski, Maciej, et al. "Urbanization and GDP per capita: New data and results for the Polish lands, 1790–1910." *Historical Methods: A Journal of Quantitative and Interdisciplinary History* 52.4 (2019): 213-227. **[Seminar Presentation]**
2. Koryś, Piotr, and Maciej Tymiński. "Economic growth on the periphery: estimates of GDP per capita of the Congress Kingdom of Poland (for years 1870–1912)." *European Review of Economic History* 26.2 (2022): 284-301.
3. Cummins, Neil. "Lifespans of the European elite, 800–1800." *The Journal of Economic History* 77.2 (2017): 406-439.
4. De Pleijt, Alexandra M., and Jan Luiten Van Zanden. "Accounting for the “Little Divergence”: What drove economic growth in pre-industrial Europe, 1300–1800?." *European Review of Economic History* 20.4 (2016): 387-409
5. Malinowski, Mikołaj, and Jan Luiten van Zanden. "Income and its distribution in preindustrial Poland." *Cliometrica* 11.3 (2017): 375-404
6. Malinowski, Mikołaj. "Little divergence revisited: Polish weighted real wages in a European perspective, 1500–1800." *European Review of Economic History* 20.3 (2016): 345-367.

### **Week 4: The Partitions of Poland (RDD)**

1. Grosfeld, Irena, and Ekaterina Zhuravskaya. "Cultural vs. economic legacies of empires: Evidence from the partition of Poland." *Journal of Comparative Economics* 43.1 (2015): 55-75. **[Seminar Presentation]**
2. Bukowski, Paweł. "How history matters for student performance. Lessons from the Partitions of Poland." *Journal of Comparative Economics* 47.1 (2019): 136-175.
3. Backhaus, Andreas. *Fading legacies: human capital in the aftermath of the partitions of poland*. No. 150. EHES Working Paper, 2019.
4. Becker, Sascha O., et al. "The empire is dead, long live the empire! Long-run persistence of trust and corruption in the bureaucracy." *The Economic Journal* 126.590 (2016): 40-74.
5. Herbst, Mikołaj. "The Persistent Legacy of the Fallen Empires. Assessing the Effects of Poland's Historical Partitions on Contemporary Social Norms Regarding Education." *Central European Economic Journal* 8.55 (2021): 330-351.
6. Vogler, Jan P. "Imperial rule, the imposition of bureaucratic institutions, and their long-term legacies." *World Politics* 71.4 (2019): 806-863
7. Wysokinska, Agnieszka. "Institutions or culture? Lessons for development from two natural experiments of history." *Lessons for Development from Two Natural Experiments of History* (May 16, 2017) (2017).

## **Part II: The Socialist Era**

### **Week 5: An Economic Perspective on the Ukraine Famine**

1. Naumenko, Natalya. "The political economy of famine: The Ukrainian famine of 1933." *The Journal of Economic History* 81.1 (2021): 156-197. **[Seminar Presentation]**
2. Grada, Cormac O. "Making famine history." *Journal of Economic Literature* 45.1 (2007): 5-38.

3. Markevich, Andrei, Natalya Naumenko, and Nancy Qian. "The Causes of Ukrainian Famine Mortality, 1932-33." (2022).
4. Naumenko, Natalya. Economic Consequences of the 1933 Soviet Famine. Mimeo, 2019.
5. Rudnytskyi, Omelian, et al. "Demography of a man-made human catastrophe: The case of massive famine in Ukraine 1932-1933." *Canadian Studies in Population* 42.1-2 (2015): 53-80.

### **Week 6: Forced Migration**

1. Becker, Sascha O., et al. "Forced migration and human capital: Evidence from post-WWII population transfers." *American Economic Review* 110.5 (2020): 1430-63.  
**[Seminar Presentation]**
2. Rozenas, Arturas, Sebastian Schutte, and Yuri Zhukov. "The political legacy of violence: The long-term impact of Stalin's repression in Ukraine." *The Journal of Politics* 79.4 (2017): 1147-1161.
3. Charnysh, Volha, and Leonid Peisakhin. "The Role of Communities in the Transmission of Political Values: Evidence from Forced Population Transfers." *British Journal of Political Science* 52.1 (2022): 238-258.
4. Charnysh, Volha. "Diversity, institutions, and economic outcomes: Post-WWII displacement in Poland." *American Political Science Review* 113.2 (2019): 423-441.
5. Wach, Oliver. "Building Socialism on Abandoned Land: The Long-Term Impact of Deportations in South-East Poland" Working Paper. (2023)

### **Week 7: Consequences of the Second World War**

1. Charnysh, Volha, and Evgeny Finkel. "The death camp Eldorado: political and economic effects of mass violence." *American political science review* 111.4 (2017): 801-818. **[Seminar Presentation]**
2. Acemoglu, Daron, Tarek A. Hassan, and James A. Robinson. "Social structure and development: A legacy of the Holocaust in Russia." *The Quarterly Journal of Economics* 126.2 (2011): 895-946. Grosfeld, Irena, Alexander Rodnyansky, and Ekaterina Zhuravskaya. "Persistent antimarket culture: a legacy of the pale of settlement after the holocaust." *American Economic Journal: Economic Policy* 5.3 (2013): 189-226.
3. Waldinger, Fabian. "Bombs, brains, and science: The role of human and physical capital for the creation of scientific knowledge." *Review of Economics and Statistics* 98.5 (2016): 811-831.

### **Week 8: The Enduring Effects of State Repression (IV)**

1. Hager, Anselm, and Krzysztof Krakowski. "Does state repression spark protests? evidence from secret police surveillance in communist Poland." *American Political Science Review* 116.2 (2022): 564-579.
2. Rozenas, Arturas, Sebastian Schutte, and Yuri Zhukov. "The political legacy of violence: The long-term impact of Stalin's repression in Ukraine." *The Journal of Politics* 79.4 (2017): 1147-1161.

3. Rozenas, Arturas, and Yuri M. Zhukov. "Mass repression and political loyalty: Evidence from Stalin's 'terror by hunger'." *American Political Science Review* 113.2 (2019): 569-583.

### **Part III: After the Fall of Socialism**

#### **Week 9: The Speed of Transition**

1. Popov, V. (2007) Shock therapy versus gradualism reconsidered: lessons from transition economies after 15 years of reforms. *Comparative Economic Studies*, 49: 1-31. **[Seminar Presentation]**
2. Piatkowski, Marcin (2018): Europe's Growth Champion: Insights from the Economic Rise of Poland
3. Arrow, Kenneth J. "Economic transition: speed and scope." *Journal of Institutional and Theoretical Economics (JITE)/Zeitschrift für die Gesamte Staatswissenschaft* (2000): 9-18.
4. Havrylyshyn, O. (2007) Fifteen Years of transformation in the post-communist world: Rapid reformers outperformed gradualists. *CATO Institute Development Policy Analysis No.4*.
5. Dell'Anno, Roberto, and Stefania Villa. "Growth in transition countries: big bang versus gradualism." *Economics of Transition* 21.3 (2013): 381-417.

#### **Week 10: Persistence of Socialism**

1. Alesina, Alberto, and Nicola Fuchs-Schündeln. "Goodbye Lenin (or not?): The effect of communism on people's preferences." *American Economic Review* 97.4 (2007): 1507-1528. **[Seminar Presentation]**
2. Lichter, Andreas, Max Löffler, and Sebastian Sieglöcher. "The long-term costs of government surveillance: Insights from stasi spying in East Germany." *Journal of the European Economic Association* (2016).
3. Habibov, Nazim. "Who wants to redistribute? An analysis of 14 post-Soviet nations." *Social Policy & Administration* 47.3 (2013): 262-286.
4. Dimitrova-Grajzl, Valentina, and Eszter Simon. "Political trust and historical legacy: the effect of varieties of socialism." *East European Politics and Societies* 24.2 (2010): 206-228.

#### **Week 11: The Socialist Woman**

1. Campa, Pamela, and Michel Serafinelli. "Politico-economic regimes and attitudes: Female workers under state socialism." *Review of Economics and Statistics* 101.2 (2019): 233-248. **[Seminar Presentation]**
2. Brainerd, Elizabeth. "Women in transition: Changes in gender wage differentials in Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union." *ILR Review* 54.1 (2000): 138-162.
3. Lippmann, Quentin, and Claudia Senik. "Math, girls and socialism." *Journal of Comparative Economics* 46.3 (2018): 874-888
4. Lovász, Anna. "Childcare expansion and mothers' employment in post-socialist countries." *IZA World of Labor* (2016).

### **Week 12: Student Presentations**

In this session we will have time to listen to the student presentations. Each student/group will have 10 minutes time to present their historical map + research question. This will be followed by a 3-minute comment of another peer followed by 5 minutes of open discussion. In this session we will have time for 4 presentation slots.

### **Part IV: Facing the European Union**

#### **Week 13: The Eastern Enlargement of the European Union**

1. Campos, Nauro F., Fabrizio Coricelli, and Luigi Moretti. "Economic growth and political integration: estimating the benefits from membership in the European Union using the synthetic counterfactuals method." (2014). **[Seminar Presentation]**
2. Epstein, Rachel A., and Wade Jacoby. "Eastern enlargement ten years on: transcending the east-west divide?." *JCMS: Journal of Common Market Studies* 52.1 (2014): 1-16.
3. Epstein, Rachel A. "Overcoming 'Economic Backwardness' in the European Union." *JCMS: Journal of Common Market Studies* 52.1 (2014): 17-34.
4. Toshkov, Dimitar D. "The impact of the Eastern enlargement on the decision-making capacity of the European Union." *Journal of European Public Policy* 24.2 (2017): 177-196

#### **Week 14: Ukraine between Conflict and Integration**

1. Zhukov, Yuri M. "Trading hard hats for combat helmets: The economics of rebellion in eastern Ukraine." *Journal of comparative economics* 44.1 (2016): 1-15. **[Seminar Presentation]**
2. Korovkin, Vasily, and Alexey Makarin. "Conflict and intergroup trade: Evidence from the 2014 Russia-Ukraine crisis." *American Economic Review* 113.1 (2023): 34-70.
3. Bluszcz, Julia, and Marica Valente. "The Economic Costs of Hybrid Wars: The Case of Ukraine." *Defence and Peace Economics* (2020): 1-25.
4. Langbein, Julia. "(Dis-) integrating Ukraine? Domestic oligarchs, Russia, the EU, and the politics of economic integration." *Eurasian Geography and Economics* 57.1 (2016): 19-42.
5. Yunin, Oleksandr, Volodymyr Sevruck, and Sergiy Pavlenko. "Priorities of economic development of Ukraine in the context of European integration." *Baltic Journal of Economic Studies* 4.3 (2018): 358-365.
6. Mykhnenko, Vlad. "Causes and consequences of the war in Eastern Ukraine: an economic geography perspective." *Europe-Asia Studies* 72.3 (2020): 528-560.

#### **Week 15: A Challenge for the EU: Economics of Populism in Poland**

1. Toplišek, Alen. "The political economy of populist rule in post-crisis Europe: Hungary and Poland." *New Political Economy* 25.3 (2020): 388-403. **[Seminar Presentation]**
2. Bluhm, Katharina, and Mihai Varga. "Conservative Developmental Statism in East Central Europe and Russia." *New Political Economy* 25.4 (2020): 642-659.

3. Grabowski, Wojciech. "Determinants of voting results in Poland in the 2015 parliamentary elections. Analysis of spatial differences." *Communist and Post-Communist Studies* 52.4 (2019): 331-342.
4. Marcinkiewicz, Kamil. "The Economy or an Urban-Rural Divide? Explaining Spatial Patterns of Voting Behaviour in Poland." *East European Politics and Societies* 32.4 (2018): 693-719.
5. Siemsen, Pascal. "Voting PiS: Voting Left when Voting Far-Right Populist?." *Polish Political Science Review* 8.1 (2020): 87-99.

**Week 16:**

**(i) Implications of the Ukrainian-Russian War for Europe**

**(ii) Wrap-up and Q&A Session**

In this session, we will briefly catch up on recent work on the "Implications of the Ukrainian-Russian War for Europe." The second part of the session will summarize and discuss the seminar and provide an opportunity to ask questions and discuss.