

Seminar (“Research Module”) in International Economics

“Exchange Rates: Determinants, Effects, and Policy Choices”

Winter Semester 2016/17

Motivation:

Both academic economists, finance-industry practitioners, policymakers and the broad public devote a lot of attention to the level and fluctuations of nominal and real exchange rates. This is not surprising, since appreciations and depreciations have massive consequences for countries’ “price competitiveness” and net international investment positions as well as effective asset returns. The goal of this seminar is to arrive at a better understanding of the forces that drive exchange rates and the consequences of exchange rate fluctuations. Attention will be devoted to measurement issues and to the short-run and long-run determinants of a currency’s external value. Moreover, we will explore governments’ policy choices with respect to the exchange rate regime as well as the constraints imposed by these choices.

Students will work on a specific topic (as defined by the seminar organizers), give a presentation, and elaborate on their insights in a term paper.

A detailed list of topics including some first references will be presented at the start of the seminar. Some of these topics will have a theoretical/analytical focus, some will concentrate on empirical issues, and some will concern institutional questions.

Important Dates (subject to change):

- 03.11.2016, 4.15 – 6 pm: Introductory meeting and presentation of topics
(attendance is mandatory)
- through 10.11.2016: Distribution of topics
- 12.01.2017, 4.30 – 7 pm and
13.01.2017, 9 am – 6 pm and
14.01.2017, 9 am – 2 pm } Student presentations (attendance is mandatory)
- 20.03.2017, 11 am: Deadline for the submission of term papers

Participants:

The seminar is offered as a **Research Module in International Economics** to those students in the **Masters Program “International Economics and Public Policy” (MIEPP)** who chose the specialization area **“International Economics”**.

Basic References:

Successful participation in the seminar requires a sound knowledge of international macroeconomics as offered by

Harms, Philipp (2016): *International Macroeconomics, 2nd edition*, Tübingen (Mohr Siebeck).

Before their presentations on January 12-14, students are strongly recommended to read (at least) Chapters II, VII and VIII of this book.

Contact Information:

Wenyue Zhang
Raum 00-125 (ReWi alt)
wzhang@uni-mainz.de