

JOHANNES GUTENBERG-UNIVERSITÄT MAINZ – D 55099 Mainz

**Seminar (“Research Module”)
in International Economics**

“Economic Aspects of the Corona Pandemic”

Summer Semester 2021

FACHBEREICH 03
Rechts- und WirtschaftswissenschaftenLehrstuhl für Volkswirtschaftslehre,
insb. International EconomicsUniv.-Prof.
Dr. Philipp HarmsJohannes Gutenberg-Universität Mainz
Jakob-Welder-Weg 4
55128 Mainz
GermanyTel. +49 6131 39-22559
Fax +49 6131 39-25527

LsHarms@uni-mainz.de

www.international.economics.uni-mainz.de

Motivation:

Since early 2020, the Corona pandemic has been dominating people’s lives around the globe. The consequences affect different parts of societies and economies, and while some phenomena may be of a transitory nature, others are likely to have long-term consequences. The goal of this seminar is to diagnose past and current events and to speculate on the future: based on current research, we want to describe different aspects of the pandemic, to assess their short-run and long-run impact, and to discuss appropriate policy measures.

Important Dates (as of April 20, 2021; possibly subject to change):

- April 22, 2021, 4.15 pm – 5.45 pm: Introductory meeting
(attendance is mandatory)
- through April 28, 2021: Distribution of topics/countries
- July 1, 2021, 4 – 7 pm } Student presentations (attendance is mandatory)
and } If necessary we are also going to use June 30, 2021
July 2, 2021, 9 am – 5 pm }
- August 20, 2021, 12 pm: Deadline for 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”**.

Prerequisites:

We expect students to be interested in both theoretical and empirical analyses, and to be willing to retrieve and process both epidemiological and economic data.

Topics:

At the first (mandatory) meeting on April 22, 2021, we will present different topics, which will be allocated among participants through April 28. Here is a short (and non-exhaustive) list of potential topics:

- How does the Corona pandemic affect international trade?
- What are the effects of fiscal stimulus packages during a pandemic?
- How does the Corona pandemic affect the distribution of income?
- What are the specific consequences of the Corona pandemic in developing countries?
- Is there a trade-off between preserving lives and sustaining economic prosperity?
- Should Corona make us re-think the merits of a market-based economy?
- (How) will the Corona pandemic affect price stability?
- How will the Corona pandemic affect the labor market?
- What will be the long-run effect of the Corona-pandemic on productivity?

References:

During the past months, a large number of scientific analyses have approached the Corona pandemic from various angles.

Examples:

- The contributions at VoxEU (<https://voxeu.org/>), in particular the „Covid-19 Page“ (<https://voxeu.org/pages/covid-19-page>)
- The videos assembled by Markus Brunnermeier at Princeton University („Markus' Academy): <https://bcf.princeton.edu/markus-academy/>
- The NBER working paper series of the National Bureau of Economic Research (www.nber.org).

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Moreover, we refer you to the publications of important economic policy institutions, such as the IMF (www.imf.org, in particular <https://www.imf.org/en/Topics/imf-and-covid19>), the World Bank etc.

Information on the evolution of the Corona pandemic can be found on the homepages of...

- the German Robert-Koch-Institut
(https://www.rki.de/DE/Home/homepage_node.html)
- the Coronavirus Resource Center at Johns Hopkins University
(<https://coronavirus.jhu.edu/>)

The website of Alessia Paccagnini offers an overview of resources on Corona-related research: <https://sites.google.com/site/alessiapaccagnini/covid19>

Depending on the specific question they are addressing, we expect participants to combine reports on the current situation with more general analyses of their topic.

Contact Information:

Mark Ruszel

mark.ruszel@uni-mainz.de