



This Master seminar intends to shed light onto selected major aspects of China's economic and political development, it reviews the relevant economic literature, and seeks to foment discussions between students on the related challenges and possible solutions. The seminar starts with economic research on China's economic rise from a macro and micro perspective. We then turn to some of the challenges that China faces domestically—including inequality, poverty, urbanization, and environmental impacts. We also discuss economic research on China's political development, which includes corruption, favoritism, and media censorship. Finally, we cover international aspects of China's emergence, including its trade relations, investment decisions, and effects of its foreign aid. The topics that this seminar touches upon include:

- China's economic growth
- Innovation
- Inequality and poverty
- Education
- Historical roots of China's development I
- Historical roots of China's development II
- Political evaluation and promotion
- Corruption
- Media, propaganda, and censorship
- Environment
- Political economy of trade and investment
- Development finance
- China in global governance
- Economic effects on the "West"
- Political effects on the "West"
- Other current debates

### *1.2 Course goals*

Students learn how to work through cutting-edge empirical research on China's economic and political development, synthesize, and critically review scholarly work, implement their own independent research, and present research in front of an academic audience.

### *1.3 Prerequisites*

There are no formal requirements but knowledge in the following areas is highly recommended: Econometrics and statistical software (Stata, R, and/or Python) at Master level.

As a refresher, the chair offers self-study modules for [R](#) and [Stata](#).

Note that Prof. Xiaohua Yu, Ph.D. offers a course *China Economic Development: From an agricultural economy to an emerging economy* which may provide useful background information but is not a prerequisite to this course.

### *1.4 Credit points*

6 ECTS-LP.

### *1.5 Registration*

The sign-up for this seminar is centralized. You can sign up until **October 11, 2023** via this form:

<https://survey.academiccloud.de/index.php/834883?lang=en>

Contested slots will be allocated via lottery, you will be informed whether you received a slot between October 13, 2023 and October 16, 2023.

Please register via FlexNow until **Wednesday, November 1, 2023**. The attendance at the introductory meeting is compulsory for registration. The number of participants is restricted to 15.

## **2. Course overview**

### *2.1 Description of the teaching and learning methods*

Students must demonstrate an overview of a specific strand of the literature on China's economic and political development. By updating and/or extending a recent research paper, students demonstrate their ability to apply econometric methods using state-of-the-art statistical software packages and their ability to go beyond the results of previous research, which they critically reflect on in a term paper. By presenting the term paper, they show their ability to concisely present complex theoretical and/or empirical concepts. Moreover, during oral discussions, students demonstrate their ability to defend,

as well as critically reflect upon arguments from the empirical literature. **The course language is English.**

## 2.2 Meetings

### *Introductory meeting:*

- Tuesday, October 24, 2023, 16:15-19:30 s.t. (room: see EXA)

### *Mid-term meetings:*

- Tuesday, December 12, 2023, 16:15-19:30 s.t. (room: see EXA)
- Tuesday, December 19, 2023, 16:15-19:30 s.t. (room: see EXA)

### *Final meetings:*

- Tuesday, March 26, 2023, 14:00-18:00
- Wednesday, March 27, 2023, 09:00-18:00

### *Submission deadline for exposé (Wednesday, December 6, 2023, 23:55)*

Please upload on Stud.IP an electronic version of your exposé (in PDF format).

### *Submission deadline for term paper (Monday, March 18, 2024, 23:55)*

Please upload on Stud.IP an electronic version of your term paper (in PDF format) as well as replication files.

### *Communication:*

Instead of emails, we will use the two communication fora on Stud.IP (one for content-related and one for organizational questions).

## 2.3 Examination and grading of the module

The grading consists of three components:

- Term paper [70%]
- Presentation of term paper and oral peer discussions of papers [30%]
- Participation in class [at the margin]

Furthermore, in order to pass the course, participants must

- be present and actively participate during all seminar sessions
- submit all written course requirements on time
- achieve a weighted average grade exceeding or equal to 4.0

#### 2.4 Course materials

- The preliminary list of required readings is announced below.
- Supplementary course materials will be announced at the beginning of each meeting and/or published on Stud.IP.

### 3. Term paper requirements

#### *Term paper*

The length of the term paper must not exceed 12 pages. The cover sheet, reference list, figures, and tables (if any) are excluded from the page count. Please use the following formatting: Font size: 12 pt, line spacing: 1.5 times, alignment: justification, margin (right, left, top and bottom margin): 2.5 cm each. Please make sure that you are consistent in your referencing and bibliography.

Use a referencing style that is in line with basic conventions in the economics literature. Always quote within a work using the same method. The Chair recommends the in-text author-year citation style (see, for example, information sheet “Citation according to the Harvard system”). All sources that you have cited in the text must appear in the reference list. Everything that you have only read but not cited in the text must NOT appear in the reference list. Term papers need to be written in English. The work must be done independently by the student.

Every idea, statement or fact taken from other sources must be appropriately cited. Quotes need to be indicated as such. Plagiarism is sanctioned with the grade 5 (failed). The general rules of the Faculty of Business and Economics apply. A signed declaration must be attached to each scientific work: “I hereby declare that I wrote this term paper independently, without assistance from external parties, and without use of other resources than those indicated. All information taken from other publications or sources in text or in meaning are duly acknowledged in the text. I give my consent to have this thesis checked by plagiarism software.”

Additionally, please attach a **declaration** if you have used AI-based chatbots such as ChatGPT. Sample annex:

Declaration on the use of ChatGPT and comparable tools: In this paper, I have used ChatGPT or another AI tool as follows.:

not at all

during brainstorming

when creating the outline

to write individual passages, altogether to the extent of ...% of the entire text

for the development of source code

for optimizing or restructuring source code

for proofreading or optimizing

further, namely: ...

I hereby declare that I have stated all uses completely. Missing or incorrect information will be considered as an attempt to cheat.

### *Replication files*

Please upload all files necessary for replicating your empirical analysis to Stud.IP on the day of submission. Your empirical analysis is considered replicable if all results used in your paper (regression tables, figures, etc.) can be generated from the raw data using your code scripts.

Your submission should include the following files:

- all raw data
- the merged dataset
- code to clean and merge the raw data
- code to analyze the data
- a short instruction for the replication, e.g. a README file or Makefile

The raw data should be marked as such and stored in a separate folder. If the datasets are very large, feel free to use file transfer services such as WeTransfer or Dropbox links. The merged dataset should be saved in a common format (e.g. csv, dta, rds). Please make sure that your code can be executed outside your own computer without further adjustments to the code. For that reason, please use relative file paths only. Add comments to specify which part of the code corresponds to which part of your paper.



















competing aid regimes generate soft power and facilitate the transmission of political principles and ideals.







role of the CPC in Chinese foreign policy-making, pointing to a new research agenda at the intersection of China's foreign relations, authoritarian diffusion, and transnational relations.

**37. Fuchs, Andreas, Lennart Kaplan, Krisztina Kis-Katos, Sebastian Schmidt, Felix Turbanisch, and Feicheng Wang. "Mask Wars: China's Exports of Medical Goods in Times of COVID-19." AidData Working Paper #108. <https://www.aiddata.org/publications/mask-wars-chinas-exports-of-medical-goods-in-times-of-covid-19>.**

The COVID-19 outbreak has cut China's supply of and raised the world's demand for face masks, disinfectants, ventilators, and other critical medical goods. This article studies the political and economic factors that facilitated access to Chinese medical equipment during the first two months of the global pandemic. Regression results show that both political and economic ties with Chinese provinces increased Chinese exports of critical medical goods to partner countries. Friendly political relations, such as local diplomatic missions and sister linkages, appear to work as a substitute for pre-existing economic ties at the provincial level. These findings imply that countries are well advised to diversify their sources or develop closer relations with China's provinces to secure better medical equipment access in crises.

*Note: Dates and contents subject to change!*