Welcome to the bi-annual newsletter for PEF students at the University of St.Gallen. We hope you will find this a valuable resource for information about programme news, events, lectures, seminars and alumni activities!

These are extraordinary challenging times. We hope you are all doing well. We would like to take this opportunity to thank you all: It is impressive how well we all managed to adjust to this situation provoked by the global spread of the new Corona virus. Thank you so much for your good work, the good spirit, for your flexibility and cooperation!

Letter from your PEF student representative

Dear fellow PEF students

As the spring term is coming to an end I would like to take the opportunity to give you a short review of the year's events in the student parliament and program meetings and an outlook on the upcoming elections.

More

New PEF Students Autumn Semester 2020

Economics: Alexander Crasovschi, Lukas Goessinger, Theresa Goop, Roberta Koch, Begum Oluk Ozdemir, Michael Tüting

Econometrics: Maximilian Jakob Arrich, Florian Benkhalifa, Hannah Busshoff, Jessica Gentner, Bruno Jäger

Finance: Zeynep Gurur Akbas

We wish them a good start!
PEF Welcome Apéro

16th September

New students: 11.15 am, 01-102
Current students: 11:30 am, 01-FOY

Please sign-up by 8th September pef@unisg.ch

Because of the current COVID-19 situation we have to make sure that HSG rules are complied with. All students will get detailed information one week before the event.

Recent Highlights

PEF Networking Event for Master Students 10th March 2020

We welcomed our Master students to this get-together to network with Ph.D students, PEF alumni and faculty. Thank you to all PEF students and alumni sharing their insights and recommendations.

Public Defences

Congratulations to

- **Linda Kirschner**, Supervisor: Prof. Keuschnigg
  
  *Essays on the Financial Crisis and Macroprudential Regulation*

- **Martin Maniera**, Supervisor: Prof. Cozzi
  
  *Essays in Demographic and Macroeconomic Trends*

Our public defences are open to the public and everybody is welcome!

PEF Ph.D. Courses Autumn Semester 2020
Ph.D. Seminar

F. Audrino & G. Cozzi

Schedule and more information

Ph.D. seminar regulations
The students choose together with their supervisors a date for their presentation. Two weeks before the first seminar students apply to the Executive Director for slots and hand in the presentation slides/papers.

Students who present a paper must also discuss a paper. Guidelines will be provided and the professors responsible for the Ph.D. seminar will assign students to discuss the presented papers.

Students' mandatory attendance is set to **75%** for the **Ph.D. seminar**. The Executive Director will have detailed information on students' explanations for not attending the seminars and informs the Programme Committee accordingly.

Literature Seminar

F. Audrino & M. Knaus

Schedule and more information

Literature Seminars are organised like **reading groups**.

You may find the lectures schedule and course descriptions on the PEF website or on Stundenplan online.

Econometrics

**Causal Machine Learning**, Prof. Michael Lechner*

**Econometric Methods for Social Spillovers and Networks**, Prof. Bryan Graham

Economics

**Topics in Economics**, Prof. Reto Föllmi and Prof. Winfried Koeniger

**Political Economics of Development**, Prof. Roland Hodler

Finance

**Time Series Methods in Financial Econometrics**, Prof. Patrick Gagliardini

**Market Microstructure**, Prof. Angelo Rnalado*

Optional Courses

**Introduction to Python**, Nicola Chiaploini

* joint PEF/GSERM  * PIF course

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**Data Consulting**

The data consulting team provides advice for HSG students and faculty who analyze data as part of their research projects. The consulting focuses on research design and research methods, including general advice on data bases and research software. The new [homepage](#) provides further information about the consulting process and the consultants.

**PEF Students and Alumni**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Title</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Daniel Ruf</td>
<td>2018</td>
<td>Junior Professor, House of Finance Chair for Real Estate Finance, Goethe University, Frankfurt, Germany.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Marc-Antoine Ramelet</td>
<td>2020</td>
<td>Economist at Swiss National Bank, Zürich.</td>
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**Publications**


News from the SEPS Faculty

We are delighted to welcome several new SEPS Faculty member as of the Autumn Semester 2020.


We are looking forward to his inaugural lecture on 23rd March 2021.

**Jana Mareckova**, Assistant Professor for Econometrics, joining the Department of Economics and the Swiss Institut for Empirical Economic Research.

**Laura Seelkopf**, Assistant Professor for Political Science with a focus on International Political Economy, joining the Department of Political Science.

We are looking forward to her presentation “The global rise and fall of inheritance taxation” in the Research Seminar Political Science on 6th October 2020.

**Martin Wolf**, Assistant Professor for Monetary Economics, joining the Department of Economics and the Swiss Institute for International Economics and Applied Economic Research (SIAW). His field of research is macroeconomics with a focus in international macroeconomics, monetary economics and growth.

**Dr. Christoph Heusgen** has been appointed Honorary Professor for the area of Foreign
Policy and Diplomacy with effect from 1st August 2020. He will play a key role in the International Affairs programmes. Dr. Heusgen’s appointment represents a return to his alma mater, with which he has been closely associated for many years. Since 2017 he is the Permanent Representative of the Federal Republic of Germany to the United Nations.

Prizes & Awards

**Award of the Swiss Academy of Humanities and Social Sciences: Prof. Beatrix Eugster**

Beatrix Eugster was awarded the Young Researcher Award for outstanding academic essays in the humanities and social sciences (silver). The jury assessed the article “Culture and Taxes” with Raphael Parchet as a "democratically important contribution to the controversy about the sustainable design of tax systems".

**Prof. Charles Gottlieb: New Member of the Swiss Young Academy**

We are pleased to announce, that Prof. Charles Gottlieb has been elected as a member of the Swiss Young Academy. The Swiss Young Academy gives young researchers the opportunity to carry out inter- and transdisciplinary projects. With their dedication and contributions, members pursue the early identification of challenges facing society, provide solutions for these challenges, and foster a dialogue between science and society.

SEPS Blog "COVID-19"

Economic, political and social science perspectives and analyses on the current situation.

Our blog showcases our broad and diverse research done at our school in a comprehensive and accessible way. The blog posts combine our expertise and competence in the fields of political science and economics, stimulates the public discussion and influences decision makers.

Seminars offered by the Department of Economics

To receive the weekly Seminars Newsletter email seps@unisg.ch

Research Seminar Economics

Brown Bag Seminar Economics

GSERM

The GSERM Global School in Empirical Research Methods at the University of St.Gallen is a 3.5
week integrated programme teaching research methodology.

GSERM took place in St. Gallen from **28 May - 19 June 2020**.

PEF students may attend summer school courses. You may ask for more information on registration, courses and crediting at pef@unisg.ch