

B-REGAM-1 Seminar Regional- und Arbeitsmarktforschung: „The Economics of (Sustainable) Cities”

Instructor: Prof. Dr. Wolfgang Dauth

Seminar

Tuesday 10:00 c.t. and Tuesday 12:00 c.t. (Room: F21/03.80)

ONLY on the following dates: 13.10., 27.10., 03.11., 17.11., 08.12., 19.01., 26.01., 02.02.

The Seminar will take place in presence.

Sprache: English

Contents

This seminar discusses how cities function from an economic perspective, focusing on the labor market.

During the first part of the seminar, lectures will introduce the most important urban economic models in a nontechnical way. This will enable us to explain everyday observations and discuss policy measures. Why does productivity increase when people or companies move to larger cities? Why are skyscrapers concentrated in city centers? Why are megacities found almost exclusively in emerging economies? What can be done about rush hour traffic jams? How do the labor and housing markets interact?

In the second part of the seminar, we will apply this knowledge to discuss current research findings. To this end, participants will write 15-page theses to be presented to the group for 20 minutes. Then, the topic will be discussed in a plenary session.

The basis for the term papers and presentations is the book “Going Remote: How the Flexible Work Economy Can Improve Our Lives and Our Cities” by Matthew E. Kahn. The book is available as an e-book through the university library: <https://katalog.ub.uni-bamberg.de/query/BV048323906>

Requirements:

An interest in and basic knowledge of labor economics.

The seminar is aimed at students from the third semester onwards

Registration

Please register by October 14, 2026 via FlexNow and in the VC course. The VC course will be closed thereafter.

Grading:

Presentation with term paper, consisting of a 15-page term paper and a 20-minute presentation of your own term paper followed by a discussion.

Structure und Topics:

- 13.10.2025** Introduction to Topic / Introduction to Scientific Working
- 27.10.2025** The Standard Urban Model
- 03.11.2025** Modifications to the Standard Urban Model; Commuting
- 17.11.2025** Interaction of Quality of Life, Housing, and Labor Market
- 09.12.2025** Reserve / Consultation
- 19.01.2026** Presentations 1-5
- 26.01.2026** Presentations 6-10
- 02.02.2026** Presentations 11-15