

The IER Seminar in Empirical Economics

We would like to invite you to the **Empirical Seminar** series organized by the Institute of Economic Research, Slovak Academy of Sciences, Šancová 56 that will be held in hybrid form (online and at the library of the Institute of Economic Research, Slovak Academy of Sciences). The seminar will take place on **January 23rd, 2026 at 10.00 (CET)**.

The speaker will be **Jenny Kragl** (EBS Business School, EBS Universität für Wirtschaft und Recht, Germany).

The topic of the seminar is: ***The Social Norm of Norm Enforcement: A Crowdsourced Experiment***

Authors: Simon Dato, Jonas Kaiser, Alexander Koch, Jenny Kragl, Julia Nafziger & Daniele Nosenzo

Abstract:

In this study, we consider the role of punishment as a way to promote and sustain cooperation in social dilemmas. Cooperation among strangers is essential for societies to thrive. Yet, cooperation often breaks down, especially in one-shot interactions among strangers. Although punishment of free-riders can alleviate such problems, some studies suggest that individuals often dislike this type of punishment. We conduct a crowdsourced experiment with more than 7,000 participants divided into 14 treatments to examine what determines the social appropriateness of punishing free riders. Contrary to the traditional view on punishment in economics, we find that there is a disconnect between first-order norms (cooperation) and second-order norms (punishment to promote cooperation). Our study also provides guidelines for institutional design, as we show that a positive punishment norm can exist when sanctions are expressive rather than harmful or when sanctioning is delegated to impartial third parties.

The seminar will be co-chaired by Filip Ostrihoň.

Link:

<https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3aN1DbFP4xWw8up59Qx5Y-CJmz8Q-Y4jniJZWjqs6Q9RA1%40thread.tacv2/1765441351935?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%2217c92093-1286-4bb4-b6ea-02f3119dd49c%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%22dab7fd44-1715-4397-8059-4adfa112d04a%22%7d>