Veranstaltung: "Inequality, Poverty, and Public Policy"

Dr. Christian Toft

WiSe 2020/2021

Wednesday: 12-16 Uhr

Course history and past course names/titles

I have taught the course in Kassel since 2004 but it has been known under different names

German language (2004-2010):

"Empirische Einkommensverteilungsanalyse"

English language (from SoSe 2011 onwards):

"International Income Distribution Analysis"

I have also taught the course in Mannheim, Wuppertal, Hanover, Beijing (China)

Brief Biography: Who is Toft?

Christian Toft has Danish nationality

Education: M.Sc. in Social Science from the University of Copenhagen with a subsidiary subject from the Free University of Berlin and a PhD in Economics from Faculty of Economics and Politics, University of Cambridge, UK

International career: In addition to Germany I have worked at universities in Scandinavia, Great Britain, Italy, Estonia, the United States, Canada, and China

Kassel: Since my return from the United States in summer 2003, I have been based in the Kassel Department of Economics

Website with further info: http://www.christian-toft.de/
https://www.uni-kassel.de/fb07/institute/ivwl/faculty-chairs/toft-dr/home.html

Course Requirements (see also HIS for details)

Mathe1, Statistik1, VWL1 und Teile von VWL 3

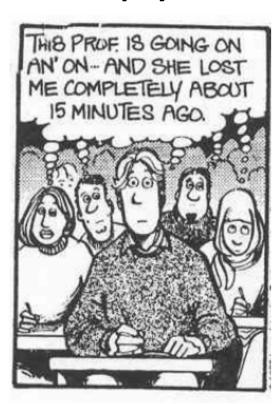
Kenntnisse ökonometrischer Methoden werden nicht vorausgesetzt und auch nicht gelehrt

Teaching Philosophy

Anglo-Saxon and Scandinavian: The class is a team. Active participation and involvement of students is encouraged and supported (Students are not costumers in Aldi!)

Individual support is available & forthcoming if students struggle

Philosophy: Questions are Welcome

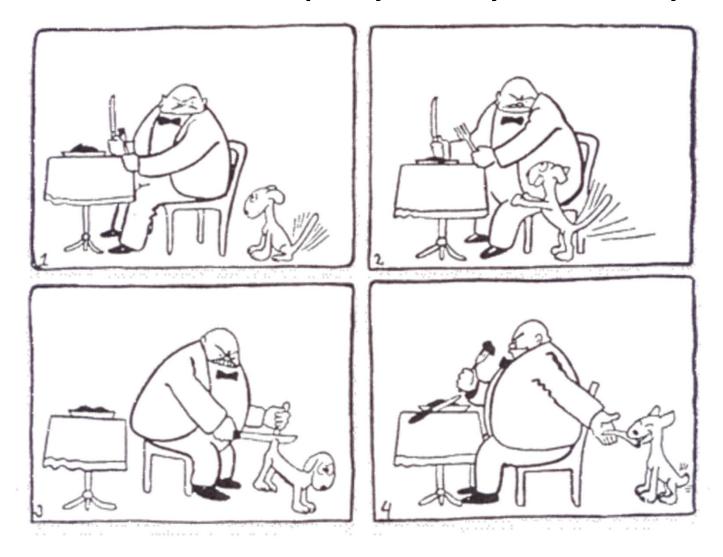






I have unlimited patience – in this class questions are welcome and you do not need to feel like a doofus ("Dummkopf") if you do not understand a point right away - no question is too silly!

Course Themes: Inequality, Poverty, Public Policy



Course Themes

Inequality, Poverty, and Public Policy addresses and concerns highly topical issues that are widely debated in Germany and elsewhere

In addition to the substantive issues, students will get the chance to apply and expand on the skills, concepts, and methods they learned during their first semesters in Mathe1, Statistik1, VWL1

If you liked these courses, or if you would like to improve on past neglects and omissions (Versäumnisse), it is highly likely that you will like "Inequality, Poverty, and Public Policy"

In the course, the emphasis is on the links between concepts, methodology & measurement, and interpretation & reflection (exam questions will be so-called "CMI" Fragen bzw. questions)

Course Themes and Structure

Part I consists of lectures and exercises

We will build up a conceptual and methodological apparatus relating to these core concepts: Income & living standards, inequality, poverty, redistribution, decomposition

Emphasis is on intuition and interpretation rather than on mathematical derivations and proofs

We will make extensive use of numerical examples and of empirical examples taken from international research

Course Themes and Structure

Part II has a seminar type format

Usually we will read about two empirical articles/chapters addressing an important topic relating to the course and to our conceptual and methodological apparatus
In other words, we will take up and look at "CMI" Fragen bzw. questions from the realm of real international empirical research

Each semester I aim to bring in an invited external speaker presenting his/her own empirical research work In SoSe 2019 a collaborator from the Paris based "World Inequality Database" (initiated by Thomas Piketty) agreed to come and entertain us (http://wid.world/)

Seminar Lecture: Markus Grabka, DIW-Berlin, SoSe 2010

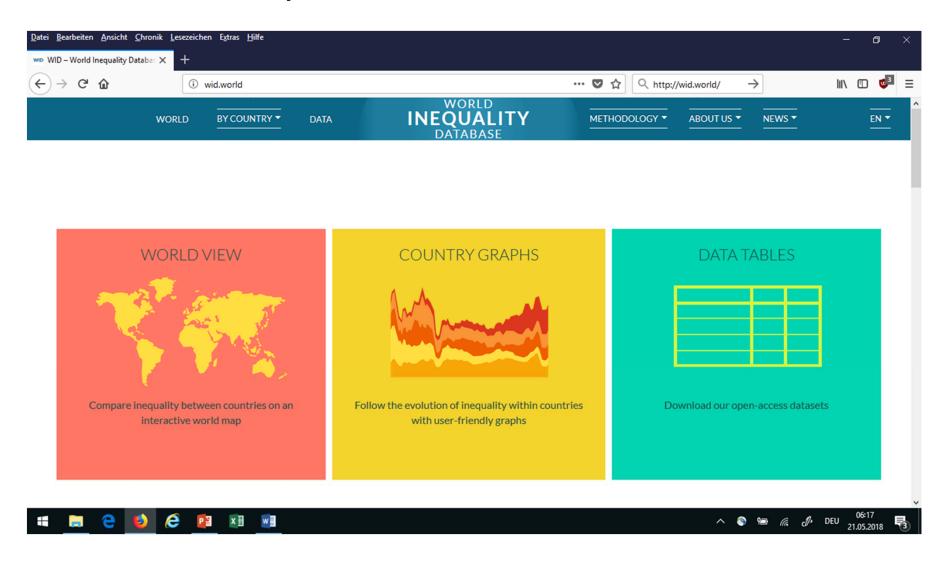


Seminar Lecture: Morten Endrikat, Aachen, SoSe 2017

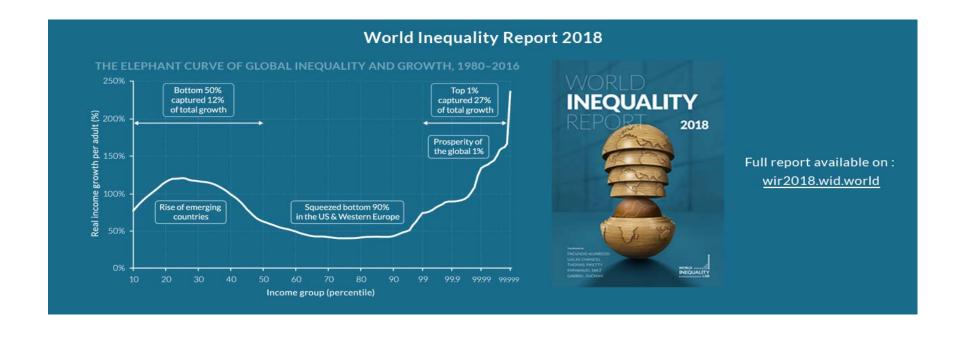




Seminar lecture January 2019 & SoSe 2019 – Lecturer from WID, Paris



Seminar lecture January 2019 and SoSe 2019 – Lecturer from WID, Paris



Seminar lecture: Dr. Marc Morgan, Paris School of Economics, January 2019





Seminar Mahlzeit – the class usually goes for a meal after the seminar



Course Evaluations & Outcomes

Since I began teaching the course in English only few Kassel bachelor students have taken part. Even though the course does not require advanced English, when I shifted from German to English I was told by students: "Ich spreche kein Englisch. Basta! Dagegen kann man nichts machen – so ist es halt". I believe that times and student attitudes might perhaps now have changed

The fact remains that, apart from the fact that the course is now taught in English, the course has changed only little since I taught it in German. Indeed, the German language material is still available on a separate page in the Moodle course

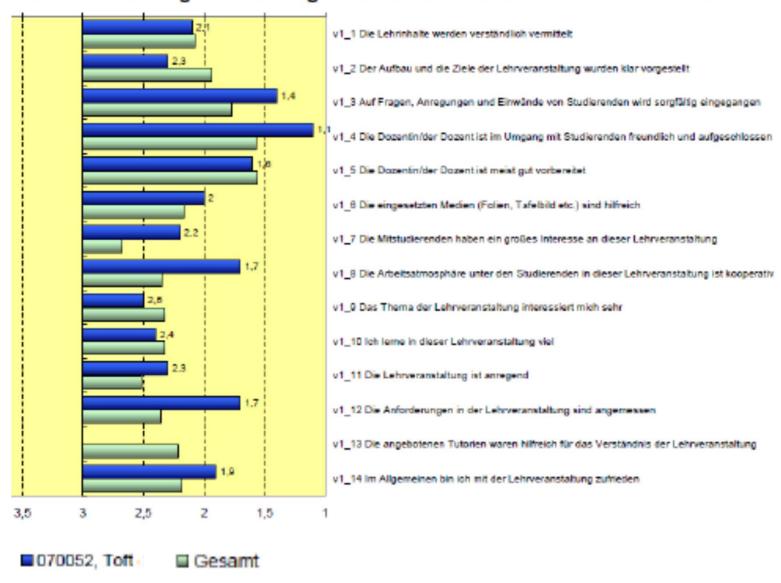
Course Evaluations & Outcomes

In any case, the basic philosophy and the topics remain the same. Some exercises and exam questions are essentially identical and only slightly modified

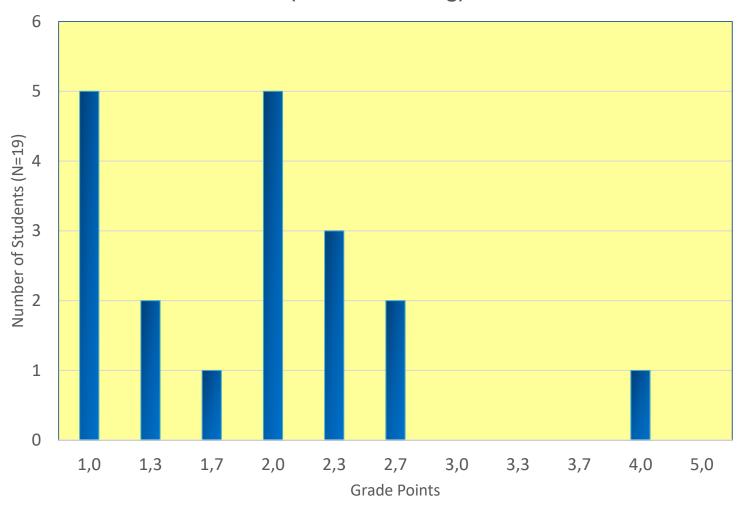
This said, a major improvement is that in contrast to the German language course we now have a text book. This has helped give the course a better and clearer structure. Past students and evaluations found the old "German" course wanting (Verbesserungswürdig) in this respect

To conclude, the next few slides indicate the last and therefore the most recent course evaluation and course outcomes (Notenverteilungen) from when Kassel bachelor students were the core audience and participants in the course

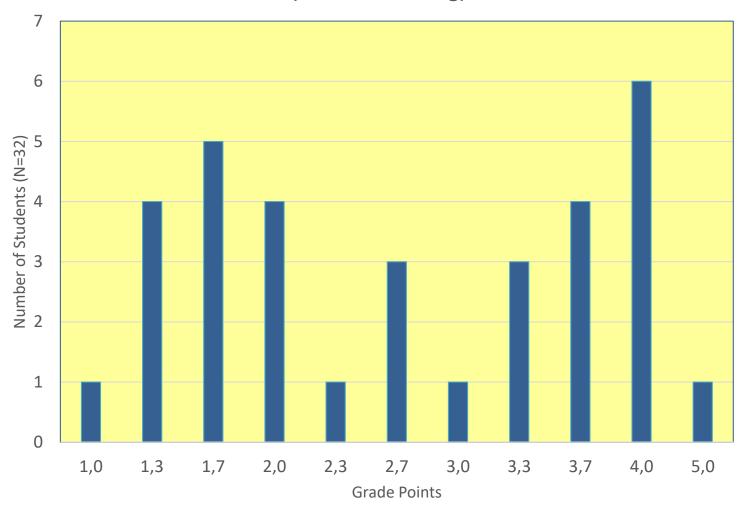
Lehrveranstaltungsevaluierung im Sommersemester 09: Fachbereich 07



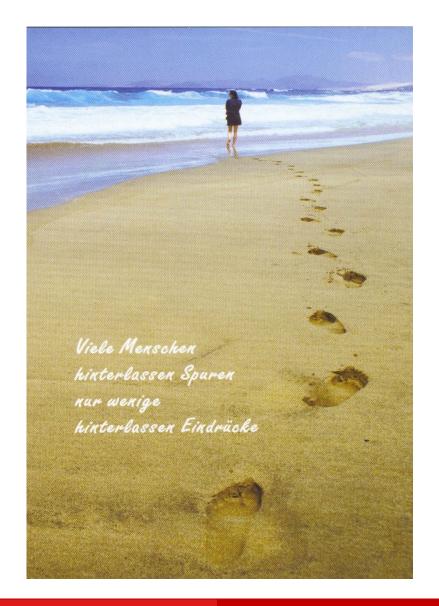
Grade Distribution (Notenverteilung) Exam SoSe 2009



Grade Distribution (Notenverteilung) Exam SoSe 2010



Dankeschönkarte einer Gruppe Studierender (Thank You Card)





Thank you for your attention & looking forward to seeing you in the next class

Vielen Dank für Eure Aufmerksamkeit. Ich hoffe Euch in einer meiner nächsten Veranstaltungen wiederzusehen

Спасибо за внимание и до встречи на следующем занятии!

Ilginiz için teşekkürler & kursda görüşmek üzere

感谢大家的关注 & 期待能在课堂上见到你们

Cảm ơn sự quan tâm của các bạn. Hẹn gặp lại

Merci de votre attention et espère vous revoir très bientôt!

Gracias por su atención y espero verles en el curso

Grazie per l'attenzione e spero di rivedervi al corso

Auf alle Fälle wünsche ich Euch allen viel Erfolg und

