It makes no sense to legally stipulate

Voth took a closer look at what higher wages

The pandemic is a stress test for the Swiss economy. It’s not just about whether the crisis means that free trade has failed. On the contrary, the global economy was able to adapt to its strengths during the pandemic. But globalization also creates net losers. The distribution of the benefits and costs of globalization – by migrating, trading, and investing – is crucial for the effectiveness of different policy actions.

Who is afraid of high wages?

Disappearing middle class

Hans-Joachim Voth

In his webcast, Prof. Enrico Rossi-Hansberg (University of Chicago) explained the long-heterogeneous impacts of climate change across regions. How people cope with climate warming – by migrating, trading, and investing – is crucial for the effectiveness of different policy actions.

Do giant firms undermine competition and social welfare?

Jan Loeber

Fostering competition is the answer. We need more innovation and we need to make sure that startups have the possibility to flourish.

In an era of technological progress and user communication, it might seem reasonable to assume that the world’s working people have never been so well off. But wages are stagnant, and prices are rising. Economist Jan Loeber showed in his webcast how this is due to a small number of companies taking advantage of new technologies to change ever more people's lives and prices. What does the future mean for tomorrow’s provision – it is an opportunity for tomorrow? In the two-part online edition of Spotlight, expert knowledge was once again in high demand. In the first part, Hans-Joachim Voth provided a comparison of the current situation with past pandemics, like the plague and the Spanish flu. While there are many similarities, he considers a smaller economic shock – that one following the Reoaring Twenties – to be unlikely. An assessment of the global economy was provided by globalisation expert David Autor, who emphasised that there is currently no backlash. On the contrary, the global economy was able to adapt to its strengths during the pandemic. But globalization also creates net losers.

Global minimum tax effects

Florian Scheuer discussed new proposals for a global minimum tax, possible repercussions for reform? In the two-part online edition of Spotlight, expert knowledge was once again in high demand. In the first part, Hans-Joachim Voth provided a comparison of the current situation with past pandemics, like the plague and the Spanish flu. While there are many similarities, he considers a smaller economic shock – that one following the Reoaring Twenties – to be unlikely. An assessment of the global economy was provided by globalisation expert David Autor, who emphasised that there is currently no backlash. On the contrary, the global economy was able to adapt to its strengths during the pandemic. But globalization also creates net losers.

Global minimum tax effects

Florian Scheuer discussed new proposals for a global minimum tax, possible repercussions for the world’s most vulnerable people – were acknowledged by all, there was intense debate about the different measures that can be taken to fight climate change. Which measures are effective, efficient, and socially acceptable – e.g., carbon tax, innovation, or green bonds? How much will they cost and who should pay for them? Juan Teixido, who is on the one hand emphasized the importance of sustainable policies and on the other voiced criticism of questionable green jobs, such as green central banks or the inclusion of environmental criteria in public procurement.

The economic geography of global warming

Emanuela Ronzatti

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Do minimum wages really lead to higher unemployment?

Hans-Joachim Voth

Pandemic and Economics

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Center news

Committed to world-class research

The UBS Center fosters world-class research in economics on all levels by endowing several permanent professorships and assistant professorships. The thematic focus of the Center’s endowed professorships is on interdisciplinary and forward-looking research that centers today’s major issues relating to the economy and the financial markets.

The UBS Center for Economics in Society, UBS Center in short, is an Associated Institute at the Department of Economics of the University of Zurich. It was established in 2012, enabled by a founding donation by UBS, which the bank made on the occasion of its 150th anniversary. In view of the generous donation, the faculty named the UBS Center after its benefactor.

The UBS Center serves two main aims. First, it enables world-class research in economics on all levels, to be conducted at the University’s Department of Economics. It thereby supports the department’s ambition to become one of the top economics departments in Europe and to make Zurich one of the best places for research in economics. The UBS Center’s other aim is to serve as a platform for dialogue between academic, business, and the broader public, fostering continuous knowledge transfer: Delivering on these aims will also strengthen the position of Zurich, and Switzerland more generally, as a leading location for education and business.

UBS Foundation and management

The UBS Center is governed by and financed through an independent foundation, the UBS Foundation of Economics in Society, chaired by former Federal Councillor Kaspar Villiger.

Management and team

- Prof. Ernst Fehr
- Prof. Hans-Joachim Voth

YOUNG TALENTS

Scholarships

The UBS Center Scholarships are scholarships awarded every year to outstanding economics graduates at the Graduate School of Economics, run by the Department of Economics at the University of Zurich.

Scholarship holders 2021
- Chiara Arias
- Agustina Colonna
- Matteo Donzelli
- Christian Deker
- Guang Jie
- Vahid Kavousi
- Mia Lu
- Aiko Masaoka
- Gabriele Pinzari
- Yvonne Riedel
- Mattia Saccani
- Garry Tan
- John Tsegbaye

About us

UBS Center at a glance

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Social media

- YouTube: 4,309 subscribers
- Twitter: 11,750 followers
- LinkedIn: 4,095 followers

Promoting dialogue

The UBS Center uses social media as a platform for dialogue and is active on various channels, creating opportunities for discussion and providing food for thought. Follow us on social media and join the discussion on key topics of our time.

Events 2022

The Center’s events come in different formats, including two annual conferences with leading representatives from the academic, private, and public sectors delivering a key contemporary economic issue. The UBS Center events feature top representatives from academia to voice their views in public speeches.

FORUM FOR ECONOMIC DIALOGUE
7.11.2022 | UNIVERSITY OF ZURICH

Digital monopolies

The power of tech giants

WIRTSCHAFTSPIDIGUM SCHWEIZ
7.4.2022 | KONGRESSHAUS ZURICH

Switzerland as a business hub

A successful model in danger?

In the new edition of the UBS Center’s very first Podcast, we compare the debate’s results of that time with the situation today. What has changed? The main question is in topi cal as it was then: how can we ensure that Switzerland remains one of the leading business hubs in the future? Keynote speakers by Prof. Guido Roland (UC Berkeley) and Guy Parets, President of the Swiss Confederation. Further speakers will be announced.

INAUGURAL LECTURE
16.5.2022 | UNIVERSITY OF ZURICH

Behavioral public policy

With application to finance

INQUIRY EVENT
20.6.2022 | UNIVERSITY OF ZURICH

Good economics for hard times

Better answers to our biggest problems

SAVE THE DATES

PUBLIC LECTURE BY NOBEL LAUREATES ESTHER DUFLO (MIT) AND ABHIJIT BANERJEE (MIT)
7.4.2022 | KONGRESSHAUS ZURICH

PUBLIC LECTURE ON A SUCCESSFUL MODEL IN DANGER?
16.5.2022 | UNIVERSITY OF ZURICH

FORUM FOR ECONOMIC DIALOGUE
7.11.2022 | UNIVERSITY OF ZURICH

THE POWER OF TECH GIANTS

Economics.
For Society.