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News

Why dictatorships survive — and what destabilizes them

About half of the world's population lives in non-democratic countries. Why do some dictatorships prevail, whereas others are overthrown? What patterns of authoritarian rule exist? A research team of the WZB, consisting of Wolfgang Merkel, Christoph Stefes, Johannes Gerschewski, Alexander Schmotz and Dag Tanneberg of the Democracy and Democratization research unit analyzed data of authoritarian regimes in 137 countries over the last 60 years. Thus, one of the world's largest data collections was compiled on stability criteria of authoritarian regimes — in Asia, the former Soviet countries and Eastern Europe, Africa, the Arab countries and Latin America.

[More information](#)

Boys suffer from their fathers' long working hours

Fathers' extremely long working hours can be detrimental to their sons' wellbeing. This is the key finding of a longitudinal study by Jianghong Li, senior researcher at the WZB and four Australian co-authors, published in the Journal of Marriage and Family.

[More information](#)

Markets and Morality: Vince Gilligan at the WZB

Hailed by viewers and critics alike as the greatest TV show ever, *Breaking Bad* explores themes of economic conditions, occupational choice, self-affirmation and moral change through the example of high-school chemistry teacher Walter White. As *Breaking Bad* reaches its final season this August, the show's creator and executive producer, Vince Gilligan (left), had his one and only appearance in Germany at the WZB Berlin - to explore the social science laboratory he envisioned with social scientists. The video of the event is now available.

[More information](#)
[To the video](#)

Global Fellowship Programme

The WZB, in cooperation with the International Social Science Council (ISSC), invites applications for one early-career scientist residing and working in a developing country to conduct research for up to six months at the WZB. The research project of the fellow

should focus on global societal problems with particular relevance to developing country contexts. Through their Global Fellowship Programme, the WZB and the ISSC aim at contributing to building a new generation of outstanding social scientists in developing countries who are willing and able to contribute to solving current global problems

[More information](#)

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Events

September 13, 2013, 6.30 pm

Challenging the Power of Finance

The recent meltdown of the financial markets and the lack of progress on announced financial reforms at the international level have stimulated debates about power in the field of finance. What role do financial institutions have in influencing the regulatory process? What has been achieved since the financial crisis? These questions will be addressed by experts from academia, NGOs, and think tanks in this roundtable discussion, organized by the WZB Project Group “Modes of Economic Governance” in cooperation with EU COST Action “World Financial Crisis”.

[More information](#)

September 27, 2013

Berlin IO Day: High Quality Research in Industrial Organization

The Berlin IO Day is a new one-day workshop sponsored by Berlin's leading academic institutions, including DIW Berlin, ESMT, WZB, Humboldt University Berlin, and Technical University Berlin. Speakers will present their recent work on a variety of Industrial Organization topics. Venue: [ESMT Berlin](#).

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Publications

Recommendations motivate donors

Often charitable organizations suggest contributing a particular amount of money when soliciting donations for a project. What are the effects of these suggestions? Maja Adena, Steffen Huck and Imran Rasul from the “Economics of Change” department have looked into this question through a randomized field experiment based on a Bayerische Staatsoper call for donations.

The opera solicited support for a social project to win over children and young people from lower income groups to classical music. Letters were sent out with suggested donations of 100 and 200 euros, and letters with no suggestions. The result: A higher suggested amount leads to a higher average-donation from operagoers. However, as the response rate slightly decreased there was no significant effect on the total amount of donations.

The results of the study are published in the WZB Discussion Paper “[Charitable Giving and Nonbinding. Contribution-Level Suggestions. Evidence from a Field Experiment](#)” (PDF).

New Discussion Papers

A list of recent Discussion Papers can be found [here](#).

 People

Nora Szech: New WZB-Fellow

Nora Szech, Professor of Industrial Economics at the University of Bamberg, has been appointed WZB-Fellow. She will be cooperating with the research unit [Economics of Change](#).

[Further information](#)

 The WZB in the Media

DailyMail, August, 23. 2013

Does working long hours make you a bad father?

On the Studie of Jianghong Li

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The Globalist, July, 27 2013

The EU's Politicization, At Long Last

Essay by Michael Zürn

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Editors :
Claudia Roth
claudia.roth@wzb.eu

Kerstin Schneider
kerstin.schneider@wzb.eu

Liability:
Dr. Paul Stoop
(Information and
Communication Department)

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Publisher

Wissenschaftszentrum Berlin
für Sozialforschung gGmbH
(Social Science Research
Center Berlin)

Reichpietschufer 50
10785 Berlin-Tiergarten
www.wzb.eu

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