It takes at least six countries to make a jar of Nutella


A look into your own wardrobe, or a walk through the supermarket are sufficient to recognize that we are involved in complex global contexts on a daily basis. By whom, where and under what conditions goods are produced, why they are produced there and not elsewhere, and how they get into our hands are fundamental questions of economic geography.

This seminar offers a critical overview of the different approaches, perspectives and topics of economic geography. The seminar is based on the textbook Economic Geography: A Contemporary Introduction by the economic geographers by Neil Coe, Philip Kelly and Henry Yeung.

The seminar is divided into four parts. In the first section we deal with the conceptual foundations of economic geography. In the second section we ask about the central actors of the capitalist world economy - from transnational corporations to migrant workers. The third section focuses on the regulation of employment relationships, global markets and nature. In the fourth and final section we examine the social and cultural dimensions of contemporary economies.

The seminar aims to provide a self-reflective, power-sensitive and geographically founded learning space in which to discuss key concepts such as capitalism, globalization, digitalization, racial capitalism, platformization, and the sharing economy with an underlying focus on axes of social differentiation such as class, race, gender, income and physical ability.

Active participation, reading and preparing English-language literature and the preparation of a seminar session (in a team) are prerequisites for participation.