



Location Details

The event will take place in room D5.2 of the ETH Zurich Main Building (Hauptgebäude) (HG D5.2), Rämistrasse 101, 8092 Zurich.

How to Reach the Venue

The main building of the ETH Zurich can be easily reached by public transport:

- from Zurich Main Station take Tram No. 6 (Direction: Zoo) or Tram No. 10 (Direction: Zürich Flughafen)
- from Bellevue take Tram No. 9 (Direction: Hirzenbach)
- from Central take the Polybahn

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Weather shocks over food producing regions in developing countries significantly affect asylum applications to the European Union

Prof. Wolfram Schlenker, Columbia University

Wednesday, 12 July 2017 | 17.00 – 18.00
ETH Zurich, Main Building, HG D5.2

Keynote Speaker: Prof. Wolfram Schlenker

Wolfram Schlenker is Professor at the School of International and Public Affairs and the Earth Institute, Columbia University, New York. Currently, he serves as research associate for the National Bureau of Economic Research, Environmental and Energy Economics Program and the Centre for Economic Research in Mannheim. He holds a PhD in Agricultural and Resource Economics from the University of California, Berkeley and a Master of Engineering and Management Sciences from the University of Karlsruhe, as well as a Master of Environmental Management from Duke University. His research interests include the economics of climate change with a focus on the effects of changing weather conditions on agricultural output. More recently, he started looking at the link of changing climate (e.g., more frequent weather shocks) and migration.



Weather shocks over food producing regions in developing countries significantly affect asylum applications to the European Union

The European Union has seen an unprecedented wave of immigration in 2015, as part of a larger surge in migration across the Mediterranean Sea that started in 2014. Wolfram Schlenker and his colleagues investigate the role of weather shocks in global distress-driven migration to the European Union in 2000-2014, i.e., preceding the recent crisis. They find that weather shocks in agricultural regions in developing countries around the globe caused increased emigration towards the European Union as measured by asylum applications recorded by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). Weather measures averaged using population weights instead of the agricultural growing area or over the entire year instead of the growing season show no significant relationship, suggesting that the effects on agricultural areas are the key channel. There is a surprisingly robust nonlinear relationship: temperatures that deviate from the moderate optimum that is optimal for agriculture, i.e., are either too cold or too hot, lead to an increase in the number of asylum applications, especially into the richer member states of the European Union. Schlenker and his colleagues use these results to conduct a thought experiment on what will happen to asylum applications under a warming climate, and find that they are likely to increase significantly.

Program

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| 17.00 | Welcome
Prof. Robert Finger, Agricultural Economics and Policy, ETH Zurich |
| 17.05 | Keynote: Weather shocks over food producing regions in developing countries significantly affect asylum applications to the European Union
Prof. Wolfram Schlenker, Columbia University |
| 17.45 | Discussion
Moderation: Prof. Robert Finger, Agricultural Economics and Policy, ETH Zurich |
| 18.00 | Apéro |

The World Food System Center is a competence center at ETH Zurich that supports multi- and cross-disciplinary approaches to addressing the challenges confronting the world food system. We do this through research, education, and outreach activities that contribute to sustainable food and nutrition security.

