

## **RESEARCH SEMINAR IN ECONOMICS FALL SEMESTER 2026 (26170)**

## **SEMINARIUM I NATIONALEKONOMI HÖSTTERMINEN 2026 (26160)**

### ***INTRODUCTORY SESSION:***

***Thursday 3 September 16.00-17.30 Aud ?***

### ***CREDIBLE SCIENCE AND RESEARCH ETHICS SESSION***

***Thursday 17 September 16.00-17.30 Aud ?***

### **Objective of the course:**

The objective of the course is, in general, to develop the skills of participants to plan, conduct, complete, present, evaluate and discuss scientific research projects. In particular, it trains the participants to

- identify, articulate and formulate significant research questions,
- apply economic theory and methods to analyse research questions,
- extract relevant information and literature rapidly,
- conduct a study meeting high professional standards,
- analyse, discuss and provide constructive comments on other students' research projects.

The research seminar takes place during the Fall Semester 2026 and the schedule is designed to make it possible for ambitious students to submit a completed thesis by the end of the Spring Semester (P4) 2027.

Thesis supervisors:

[arno.apffelstaedt@hanken.fi](mailto:arno.apffelstaedt@hanken.fi), [Ari.Hyytinen@hanken.fi](mailto:Ari.Hyytinen@hanken.fi), [Julia.Salmi@hanken.fi](mailto:Julia.Salmi@hanken.fi),  
Torsten Santavirta, [Rune.Stenbacka@hanken.fi](mailto:Rune.Stenbacka@hanken.fi), [aapo.stenhammar@hanken.fi](mailto:aapo.stenhammar@hanken.fi)  
[Topi.Miettinen@hanken.fi](mailto:Topi.Miettinen@hanken.fi)(*coordinator*)

The seminar incorporates the following parts:

### ***1. Formulation of thesis topic***

A preliminary suggestion for a thesis subject should be announced by e-mail to the seminar coordinator

[topi.miettinen@hanken.fi](mailto:topi.miettinen@hanken.fi)

no later than **Tuesday 15 September 2026**. You are encouraged to consult any of the available thesis supervisors prior to deciding on the suggested topic. However, each seminar participant is individually responsible for the selection of his/her own topic.

### ***2. Planning report***

A planning report should be submitted no later than **Thursday 24 September 2026**. The report should include a preliminary aim, some ideas in support of why the suggested topic is significant, some important sources, a short description of where you might find appropriate data for the empirical part, and a brief suggestion for the methods you plan to use.

While there are no formal requirements for the planning report, it is highly recommended to view this report as your first step in the process of writing the thesis. The report should thus include a title page with a tentative title, a plan of sections to be included, description of the topic to be analysed (2-3 pages) and a list of references, quite like in the final thesis. It is useful to browse earlier M.Sc. theses in Economics from the thesis collection maintained by Hanken's library, organized by subject ( <https://helda.helsinki.fi/browse/subject?scope=d81ded9c-1f04-4388-b42a-c5e07bd2977a&value=Economics> ).

The planning report will be discussed with the supervisor during a personal planning session that each student can book by sending an email to his/her supervisor. The individual sessions are organized during the period **28 September – 2 October 2026**.

### ***3. The Seminar Report***

During the Spring Semester participants prepare a *Seminar report*. The *Seminar report* is expected to be at least 20 pages. It will be in the focus of a detailed and critical, but constructive, seminar discussion in the seminar group. The seminar report should contain a fairly precise aim of the thesis as well as its main theoretical foundations. It should also include a convincing presentation of the empirical sources, the methods that will be used in the research and a well-defined and precise plan for how to continue.

It is valuable to view the seminar report as being an intermediate step in the thesis writing process. The seminar report should have a structure that starts to resemble that of the final thesis, i.e., it should include a title page, have all major sections in place, include a list of references, and perhaps even have an appendix (if needed). In particular, the seminar report should precisely state the research question. It is good if the report offers some tentative answers, backed up by, at least, some preliminary empirical analysis when possible.

A pdf-version of the seminar report must be submitted no later than **Thursday 3 December 2026 at 12.00** to the seminar coordinator, [topi.miettinen@hanken.fi](mailto:topi.miettinen@hanken.fi). **You should also, with the same deadline, submit your seminar report on the Moodle homepage following the instructions regarding self checks concerning plagiarism etc.**

### ***4. The Seminars***

The presentations of the seminar reports are planned to take place during the period **11-17 December 2026** according to a *detailed schedule that will be announced as soon as possible after the reports have been submitted*. We will allocate 60 minutes for the presentation and discussion of each report. Each participant should prepare a presentation approx. 35 minutes. Further, each participant will be assigned to serve as discussant (opponent) to another student's seminar report. The opponent is strongly encouraged to prepare a carefully structured Power Point presentation, or equivalent, to support his/her comments. When the reports have been submitted, the seminar coordinator decides who will serve as discussant for which report. In each seminar we allocate 10 minutes to the discussant, and the remaining time is used for discussion. All participants are expected to contribute to the discussion. ***Participation in all seminar presentations is mandatory and active discussion is encouraged during the presentations.***

#### *Written Comments by the Discussant*

Each discussant is required to prepare written comments in advance. These comments should cover approx. 3 pages. A pdf-version of these comments should be submitted by e-mail to the chairman of the seminar in question no later than **one day (24 hours) before** the seminar.

#### *Written Comments by All Participants*

Each participant should prepare comments on each report in advance. These comments should cover 1-2 pages. A pdf-version of these comments should be submitted by e-mail to the chairman of the seminar in question no later than **two hours before** the seminar.

### ***5. Presentation of a selected study focusing on methods and empirical/econometric aspects***

Once the participant has decided on a topic for the seminar essay, he/she should select

a study from the relevant literature and make a presentation of this study to the thesis supervisor. The presentation should focus particularly on methods and empirical aspects. The thesis supervisor evaluates this presentation. The seminar participant makes an agreement with the thesis supervisor regarding the details and schedule for this individual presentation.

## ***6. Data Management***

As part of Hanken's data management policy (<https://libguides.hanken.fi/rdm/sv>) students using data for coursework of MSc-theses should fill in the form below.

Record of data processing activities for students (e-form):

<https://forma.hanken.fi/lomakkeet/2663/lomake.html>

Note that if you use data in your MSc-thesis, you must fill in the above data management form. Once you have done so, your thesis supervisor receives a confirmation email. Your supervisor should receive this information as soon as possible, and in any case right after you have decided which data you will be using.