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Social capital and its impacts on economic growth

Research Topics for Master Thesis (in English)

Although there is a conceptual debate on what social capital is, there has been a growing considerable attention of using this concept in economics. According to the World Bank, social capital is broadly used to define a set of micro and macro concepts (such as trust, norm, values and institutions) which enables collective actions in economies¹. The following research topics are therefore related to an emerging literature that combines social capital and economic growth:

Topic 1: Does social capital matter for economic prosperity? (A theoretical or an empirical analyses on the causal link between social capital and economic growth)

Topic 2: How does social capital accumulate? (With a special focus on the impact of technological change on social capital accumulation)

Topic 3: Does the economic impact of social capital differ for developing and developed countries? (With a special focus on demography)

The aim of these proposed research theses is to get a better explanation of the role of social capital and its transmission channels in theoretical and/or empirical models of endogenous economic growth. Students who are interested in quantitative analyses and multi-sector growth models are highly encouraged to apply.

The following articles are recommended for having a general idea about social capital in growth literature:

- Thompson, M. (2018). Social capital, innovation and economic growth, *Journal of Behavioral and Experimental Economics*, 73, 46-52. (* theoretical analysis)
- Akçomak, I. S., & Ter Weel, B. (2009). Social capital, innovation and growth: Evidence from Europe, *European Economic Review*, 53(5), 544-567. (* empirical analysis)
- Robison, L. J., Schmid, A. A., & Siles, M. E. (2002). Is social capital really capital?, *Review of Social Economy*, 60(1), 1-21. (* conceptual analysis)

For more information visit [the web page](#) and contact: levent.eraydin@kit.edu

¹Please see the following source: [Understanding and Measuring Social Capital](#).