

[View in browser](#)



Dear subscribers to the IPE@WU Newsletter,

Welcome to the January 2026 edition of our monthly digest with the latest news from the Institute for International Political Economy.

This month, Zack Zimbalist explores why the 48-team World Cup promises more drama and underdog stories, while Alesia Ahmetaj uncovers why Vienna and Athens regulate short-term rentals so differently. Ashley Simpson reflects on the value of risk and error in learning, and Patricia Urban shares her research on circular economy and socio-ecological systems.

Thank you for being a valuable member of our community. If you have any questions or suggestions, feel free to reach out, we'd love to hear from you!

Your IPE Team

IPE in the world



Why the 48-team World Cup might be the most exciting yet

Report by Zack Zimbalist

The expanded World Cup format is a celebration of what makes football thrilling in the first place: *randomness, uncertainty, and the chance for true underdog stories*. Drawing on insights from behavioral science and recent shock upsets, Zack explains why more teams and more matches could mean a tournament packed with drama.

[Read more](#)

IPE@WU Theses



Why Do Vienna and Athens Regulate Short-Term Rentals So Differently?

Article by Alesia Ahmetaj

Our student Alesia Ahmetaj explores why two cities that face similar tourism pressures have ended up with very different legal approaches. By comparing laws, official documents, and platform data, she found a surprising common thread: taxation is the main policy driver in both cities, even when governments publicly emphasize housing or urban planning.

[Read more](#)

IPE@WU Teaching



Creating Space for Risk, Error, and Learning

Pedagogic Insight by Ashley Simpson

In a world defined by uncertainty, education must do more than deliver answers, it must create space for risk, error, and learning. Ashley Simpson reflects on why interactive, discussion-based teaching helps students build confidence, resilience, and critical thinking skills they'll need beyond the classroom.

[Read more](#)

Teaching News: Three Sections of Qualitative Methods Coming Next Semester

By Zack Zimbalist

Due to rising demand from WUPOL students, we are delighted to announce that we will offer three sections of Empirical Research Methods II next semester. We are excited to see the growing interest in the WUPOL program and look forward to providing students with further training and skills in applied research methods that will be useful for their academic and professional careers.

[To the course catalogue](#)

IPE@WU Careers



Interview with Patricia Urban

Patricia Urban is a researcher at the Center for European Policy Studies (CEPS) - a leading think tank and forum for debate on EU affairs. Patricia's research interests have revolved around interactions of socioeconomic and ecological systems. Her main expertise relates to the area of circular economy.

[Watch the full interview](#)

Looking ahead: Important Dates

Registration for "[Politics and Money](#)" Specialisation

29.01.2026-8.02.2026

Registration for [IPE courses](#)

9.02.2026-27.02.2026

[Pizza, Politics and \(Motion\) Picture](#)

26.03.2026

Scientist's Joke

A political scientist and an economist walk into a bar. The bartender says,

“Why the long faces?”

They answer in unison: “The assumptions.”

Thank you for subscribing to our newsletter and your interest in International Political Economy. If you have any questions or suggestions, please do not hesitate to contact us at: ipe@wu.ac.at.

We will be happy to get in touch with you.

Best wishes,

IPE Team



Institute for International Political Economy

Welthandelsplatz 1, 1020, Vienna

This email was sent to elizaveta.gavrikova@gmail.com.

You've received this email because you've subscribed to our newsletter.

[Unsubscribe](#)