

## **Guidelines for the discussion**

Seminar or conference presentations are often followed by a short (5-10 minute) discussion. This discussion is in fact another presentation, where the discussant critically assesses the previous presenter's talk.

A discussion usually begins with a very short summary of the paper or seminar thesis (less than a minute; if you make slides, then the summary should not exceed one slide). Discussants typically highlight which parts they find particularly interesting or well presented. Afterwards, the critical discussion begins. Here you are expected to focus on issues such as possible errors in the content of the thesis or presentation, things that were unclear or difficult to understand, or possible ways of improving the work at hand. You may formulate a provocative (counter) thesis or shed light on the topic from a different angle. You may also ask additional questions which are related to the topic and have not been thoroughly answered in the presentation or thesis.

For the 'topics in macroeconomics' seminar the time allotted to the discussant's presentation is 5 minutes, slides are optional and you are expected to chair the floor discussion following your presentation.