Topics in empirical political economy

Spring 2013
Professor:
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Office hours by appointment

The time and place of the sessions are presented at the end of this syllabus.

Asterisks denote required reading. Papers without asterisks are supplementary and intended for students with political economics as the main field.

Assignments:
Referee reports (total of 2) on recent papers to be distributed in the first session of the course. In-class presentation of the report with slides.

Each referee report should be up to (and about to) 3 pages single-spaced. The report should start off with a one short paragraph summary of the main argument of the paper. It should proceed with the main criticisms of the paper. Conclude the report with minor comments. A good referee report not only clearly states the shortcomings of the work, but also lays out constructive, detailed and realistic suggestions for improvement.

The course consists of 8 sessions, each covers a separate topic. The time and place of the sessions are presented at the end of this syllabus.

Exam: take-home, referee report on an empirical paper on political economy to be distributed at the last session of the class.

Grade: class participation and class presentations 30%, referee report assignments 35%, exam 35%.

Students are strongly encouraged to attend the PEPES seminar (www.pepeseminar.net).

1. Political cycles, elections vs. appointments / Representation and Political Reservation

Cycles:
2. Economic Effects of Constitutions

* Torsten P. "Forms of democracy, policy and economic development", mimeo

3. Political Economics of Decentralization

Zhuravskaya, E. (2011) "Federalism in Russia," Forthcoming in Russia’s Balance-sheet

REPORT 1, session 3: "Decentralization, Collusion and Coalmine Deaths" by Ruixue Jia, Huihua Nie

4. Conflict and Economic Performance


REPORT 2, session 4: “Conflict, Climate and Cells: A disaggregated analysis" by Mariaáavia Harari, Eliana La Ferrara

5. Political Persuasion of Media, effects and determinants of media freedom

* Enikolopov, Petrova, and Zhuravskaya “Media and Political Persuasion: Evidence from Russia” (Forthcoming at AER, 2011)


REPORT 3, session 5: "Propaganda and Conflict: Theory and Evidence from the Rwandan Genocide" by David Yanagizawa-Drott

6. The value and the cost of political connections (November 15, 2011)


REPORT 4, session 6: “The mortality cost of political connections » by Raymond Fisman, Yongxiang Wang

7. Regulation and corruption

Mironov and Zhuravskaya “Corruption in Procurement and Shadow Campaign Financing: Evidence from Russia” mimeo
REPORT 5, session 7: «Teaching Practices and Social Capital » by Yann Algan Pierre Cahuc Andrei Shleifer

8. History and development

REPORT 6, session 8: “Gender and Missionary Influence in Colonial Africa » by Nathan Nunn

Calendar: Topics in empirical political economy of government and development

mar. 5 févr. 09:20 – 12:20 Room A4 (campus Jourdan)
mars. 12 févr. 09:20 – 12:20 Room A4 (campus Jourdan)
mars. 19 févr. 09:20 – 12:20 Room Toumanian (CIUP Maison d’Arménie)++
mars. 26 févr. 09:20 – 12:20 Room Toumanian (CIUP Maison d’Arménie)++
mars. 19 mars 09:20 – 12:20 Room A4 (campus Jourdan)
mars. 26 mars 09:20 – 12:20 Room A4 (campus Jourdan)
mars. 2 avr. 09:20 – 12:20 Room A4 (campus Jourdan)
mars. 9 avr. 09:20 – 12:20 Room A4 (campus Jourdan)

++ The Maison d’Arménie is located in front of Campus Jourdan, at 57 bd Jourdan, room Toumanian is on the floor -1 (once inside the building, there are posters and indications). The code to the main entrance door is 1927.