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THE OHIO STATE
UNIVERSITY

NEW PERSPECTIVES ON THE POLITICAL ECONOMY OF DEVELOPMENT

FEB 7–8, 2025

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

TUTOR CAMPUS CENTER 227

and RALPH AND GOLDY LEWIS HALL 308

THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

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FEB. 7 AGENDA

TUTOR CAMPUS CENTER (TCC) 227

8:15 AM – 8:45 AM

LIGHT BREAKFAST

8:45 AM – 8:55 AM

INTRODUCTION & WELCOME

8:55 AM – 10:00 AM

**“Gendered Candidate Selection and District Competitiveness:
Evidence from Horizontal Parity Laws in Mexico”**

(with Gustavo Guajardo)

Lucia Motolinia, Washington University

Discussant: Daniel Hidalgo, Massachusetts Institute of Technology

10:00 AM – 10:15 AM

BREAK

10:15 AM – 11:20 AM

**“Discretionary Partisans: How Grassroots Organizations Reconcile
Mandate and Electoral Engagement”**

(with Pratik Mahajan)

Feyaad Allie, Harvard University

Discussant: Zuheir Desai, Ohio State University

11:20 AM – 12:25 PM

**“Access to Social Media and Support for Elected Autocrats:
Field Experimental and Observational Evidence from Uganda”**

(with Jeremy Bowles and John Marshall)

Pia Raffler, Harvard University

Discussant: Thad Dunning, University of California, Berkeley

12:25 PM – 1:25 PM

LUNCH

(CONTINUED)

FEB. 7 AGENDA

TUTOR CAMPUS CENTER (TCC) 227

(CONTINUED)

1:25 PM – 2:30 PM

“The Limits of Electoral Gender Quotas in Rural Local Bodies”

(with Gaurav Sood)

Varun Karekurve-Ramachandra, University of Southern California

Discussant: Rikhil Bhavnani, University of Wisconsin–Madison

2:30 PM – 2:45 PM

BREAK

2:45 PM – 3:50 PM

“Local Elections Efficiency and Resource Allocation: Evidence from Russian Cities”

Olga Gasparyan, Florida State University

Discussant: Christian Grose, University of Southern California

3:50 PM – 4:00 PM

BREAK

4:00 PM – 5:00 PM

KEYNOTE ADDRESS

“Fall of the Machines? How We Should Shape The Future of Political Science with AI”

Arthur Spirling, Princeton University

FEB. 8 AGENDA

RALPH AND GOLDY LEWIS HALL (RGL) 308

8:25 AM – 8:55 AM

LIGHT BREAKFAST

8:55 AM – 10:00 AM

“Are Women Better Politicians? Discrimination, Gender Quotas, and Electoral Accountability”

(with Varun Karekurve-Ramachandra and Sergio Montero)

Zuheir Desai, Ohio State University

Discussant: Horacio Larreguy, Instituto Tecnológico

Autónomo de México

10:00 AM – 10:15 AM

BREAK

10:15 AM – 11:20 AM

“Boosting the Co-Production of Public Goods: Experimental Evidence From a Lebanese Waste Management Program”

(with Kristen Kao and Trevor Incerti)

Salma Mousa, University of California, Los Angeles

Discussant: Cecilia Hyunjung Mo, University of California, Berkeley

11:20 AM

LUNCH AND ADJOURN

ORGANIZERS



ZUHEIR DESAI
OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

Zuheir Desai is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Political Science at the Ohio State University. His research focuses on electoral competition and political accountability, bridging theoretical models of elections, voting, and policymaking with empirical applications in developing democracies such as Brazil and India. Prior to joining Ohio State, Desai was an Assistant Professor in the School of Politics, Economics, and Global Affairs at IE University from 2021 to 2023 and a Postdoctoral Research Associate in the Department of Politics at Princeton University during the 2020–21 academic year. He earned his PhD in Political Science from the University of Rochester in 2020.



VARUN KAREKURVE-RAMACHANDRA
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Varun Karekurve-Ramachandra is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Political Science and International Relations at the University of Southern California. His research centers on the political economy of development, employing an institutional perspective and diverse methodologies to examine bias, discrimination, and potential reforms. His work explores the judiciary, women in politics, political representation, political parties, and bureaucracies, with a primary focus on South Asia. Previously, he was the inaugural Gerhard Casper Postdoctoral Fellow in Rule of Law at Stanford University's Center on Democracy, Development, and the Rule of Law. Karekurve-Ramachandra received his PhD in Political Science from the University of Rochester in 2022.

KEYNOTE SPEAKER



ARTHUR SPIRLING
PRINCETON UNIVERSITY

Arthur Spirling is the Class of 1987 Professor of Politics at Princeton University and the Director of Graduate Studies. He earned his bachelor's and master's degrees from the London School of Economics and his PhD from the University of Rochester. Spirling's research emphasizes the development of quantitative methods for analyzing political behavior, including institutional evolution and the innovative use of text-as-data. His contributions span leading academic outlets like *American Political Science Review* and *Journal of the American Statistical Association*. Spirling also explores intersections of data science and social science, focusing on machine learning and large language models. His recognition includes teaching and mentoring awards from Harvard and NYU, as well as the "Emerging Scholar" prize from the Society for Political Methodology.

PRESENTERS AND DISCUSSANTS



PRESENTER

FEYAAD ALLIE HARVARD UNIVERSITY

Feyaad Allie is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Government at Harvard University. His research explores democracy, identity, and intergroup relations, with a regional focus on South Asia, particularly India. He examines the challenges of fostering inclusive political systems in multi-ethnic societies and is developing a book based on his doctoral dissertation about political representation in India. His work utilizes mixed methods, including administrative data, original surveys, and elite and voter interviews. Allie has received numerous awards, including the Gabriel A. Almond Award for the best dissertation in comparative politics (2024) and the Sage Best Paper Award (2023). He earned his PhD in Political Science from Stanford University and a BA in Government from Dartmouth College.



DISCUSSANT

RIKHIL BHAVNANI UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

Rikhil Bhavnani is a Professor and the Glenn B. and Cleone Orr Hawkins Chair in the Department of Political Science at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, where he serves as Associate Chair and Director of Graduate Studies. He is also the President-Elect of the Midwest Political Science Association. Bhavnani's research focuses on the political economy of development, migration, and inequalities in political representation, with a particular emphasis on South Asia. He is currently co-authoring a book on the conditions for successful mass, nonviolent mobilizations and has published extensively in top journals such as the *American Political Science Review* and the *Journal of Politics*. Previously, Bhavnani held a visiting fellowship at Princeton University and worked at the Center for Global Development and the International Monetary Fund. He earned his PhD and MA in Political Science and Economics from Stanford University and his BA from Yale University.



DISCUSSANT

THAD DUNNING UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, BERKELEY

Thad Dunning serves as the Robson Professor of Political Science at the University of California, Berkeley, and directs the Center on the Politics of Development. He researches comparative politics, political economy, and research methods, focusing on ethnic cleavages, political representation, and natural resource wealth. He previously taught Political Science at Yale University. Dunning has authored award-winning books and published extensively in top academic journals including *Brokers, Voters, and Clientelism: The Puzzle of Distributive Politics* (Cambridge University Press, 2013), *Natural Experiments in the Social Sciences: A Design-Based Approach* (Cambridge University Press, 2012), and *Crude Democracy: Natural Resource Wealth and Political Regimes* (2008, Cambridge University Press). He earned a PhD in Political Science and an MA in Economics from the University of California, Berkeley, in 2006.

PRESENTERS AND DISCUSSANTS



PRESENTER

OLGA GASPARYAN FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY

Olga Gasparyan is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Political Science at Florida State University. Her research spans comparative political economy, public policy, and visual studies, with a methodological focus on causal inference, machine learning, and deep learning models. She contributes to the Lancet Countdown team by analyzing climate change rhetoric computationally across public, media, and international organizations. Before her current role, Gasparyan was a Postdoctoral Fellow at the Data Science Lab at Hertie School, where she worked with the SCRIPTS Cluster of Excellence and the CATALYSE EU Horizon Project. She earned her PhD in Political Science from the University of Rochester.



DISCUSSANT

CHRISTIAN GROSE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Christian Grose is a Professor of Political Science and Public Policy at the University of Southern California and the Academic Director of the USC Schwarzenegger Institute for State and Global Policy. His research focuses on American politics, legislative behavior, public administration, and voting rights, with work published in top journals such as *American Political Science Review*, *American Journal of Political Science*, and *Journal of Politics*. His book, *Congress in Black and White*, won the best book on race and politics award from the American Political Science Association. Grose also directs USC's Democracy Lab, where researchers, students, and policy practitioners work together to generate new ideas to reform American democracy. His recent work examines behavioral and social choices made by public officials and election administrators, and how they are constrained by institutions and law.



DISCUSSANT

DANIEL HIDALGO MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

F. Daniel Hidalgo, Associate Professor of Political Science at MIT, focuses on the political economy of elections, campaigns, and representation, with a particular interest in developing democracies, especially in Latin America. Hidalgo's expertise extends to quantitative methods in the social sciences, and his work has been featured in journals such as *The Journal of Politics*, *Review of Economics and Statistics*, and *World Development*. He holds a BA from Princeton University and a doctorate in Political Science from UC Berkeley. Hidalgo is a recipient of grants from organizations like the National Science Foundation and the Fulbright Program, reflecting his contributions to understanding democratic processes in complex political landscapes.

PRESENTERS AND DISCUSSANTS



DISCUSSANT

HORACIO LARREGUY

INSTITUTO TECNOLÓGICO AUTÓNOMO DE MÉXICO

Horacio Larreguy is an Associate Professor of Economics and Political Science at the Instituto Tecnológico Autónomo de México (ITAM) and a Visiting Fellow at the Institute for Advanced Study in Toulouse and the Toulouse School of Economics. His research interests include political accountability, voter behavior, misinformation, and political polarization, with a focus on Latin America and Africa. Larreguy's recent projects investigate the spread of misinformation and the role of social networks in political accountability. Previously, he was an Assistant and Associate Professor of Government at Harvard University. Larreguy holds a PhD in Economics from MIT, a Master's in Economics and Finance from CEMFI, and a BA in Economics from the University of Buenos Aires.



PRESENTER

LUCIA MOTOLINIA

WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

Lucia Motolinia is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Political Science at Washington University in St. Louis. Her research focuses on comparative politics, electoral institutions, legislative behavior, money in politics, and quantitative text analysis, with a regional emphasis on Mexico and Latin America. She investigates how institutional incentives influence elite behavior, including political selection, party cohesion, and distributive politics, using a combination of observational data, natural experiments, and text analysis. Her work has been published or is forthcoming in leading journals such as the *American Political Science Review* and *World Politics*.



PRESENTER

SALMA MOUSA

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, LOS ANGELES

Salma Mousa is an Assistant Professor of Political Science at the University of California, Los Angeles. Her research examines questions of social cohesion and intergroup relations, typically through field experiments in partnership with local governments and NGOs in the Middle East and beyond. Her work has been featured in *Science* and the *American Political Science Review* and covered by major media outlets including *The Economist*, the BBC, and PBS NOVA. Prior to joining UCLA, Mousa was an Assistant Professor of Political Science at Yale University. She holds a PhD from Stanford University (2020) and a BSc from Georgetown University in Qatar.

PRESENTERS AND DISCUSSANTS



DISCUSSANT

CECILIA HYUNJUNG MO

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, BERKELEY

Cecilia Hyunjung Mo, Judith E. Gruber Associate Professor of Political Science at UC Berkeley, is also an Associate Professor of Public Policy (by courtesy) at the Goldman School of Public Policy. Her interdisciplinary research blends political science, economics, and psychology to tackle issues like rising inequality, prejudice, modern slavery, and democratic citizenship. Mo's scholarly work has been published in leading journals, including *American Political Science Review* and *World Development*. Her accolades include the 2020 Emerging Scholar in Elections, Public Opinion and Voting Behavior Award from APSA, along with multiple best paper awards. Mo also serves as the co-lead scientific advisor for the Human Trafficking Research Initiative for Innovations for Poverty Action, further solidifying her reputation as a thought leader in addressing pressing global challenges.



PRESENTER

PIA RAFFLER

HARVARD UNIVERSITY

Pia Raffler is an Assistant Professor of Government at Harvard University. Her research focuses on accountability, representation, bureaucracy, and voter behavior, particularly in Sub-Saharan Africa and Germany. She collaborates with government agencies, civil society organizations, and political parties to design and evaluate reforms that increase accountability, often employing large-scale field experiments and qualitative data collection. Her work has been published in top journals such as the *American Political Science Review* and *Science Advances* and has received numerous awards from the American Political Science Association. Prior to joining Harvard, Raffler spent time at Princeton University's Niehaus Center and Center for Study of Democratic Politics. She earned her PhD from Yale University.

USC CENTER FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDIES

Instagram: @usccis

213-740-0800

lascis@usc.edu

dornsife.usc.edu/cis/

University of Southern California
3454 Trousdale Parkway
College Academic Services Building (CAS) 101
Los Angeles, CA 90089-0155

