



UNIVERSITY OF
GOTHENBURG



Work-in-Progress Workshop

SCHEDULE, SPRING 2024



Governance and Local
Development Institute

Work-in-Progress Workshop, Spring 2024 Schedule

(30 January) NEW DATE! 7 MAY

Does Increasing Technology Access Change Political Participation and Claim-making? Evidence from Rapid Electrification in Kenya

Jennifer Brass (Indiana University)

How does access to technology affect political participation? In most of the world, citizens with ready access to electricity have a choice about how they engage with the state. Electricity and technology enable people to socialize independently and to make claims on authorities easily from the comfort of their homes. But in parts of the world where access to electricity is low but increasing rapidly, how do citizens with electricity participate differently than those without? Further, as the number of people with access to electricity and enabling technologies, like smartphones, increases, is it possible to observe changes in patterns of participation or claim-making on the state? When do citizens use technology to make claims on authorities virtually versus in-person and which authorities do they target? This paper examines these questions using original survey data and qualitative data from Kenya. Access to electricity in Kenya has increased rapidly in the last decade. Just ten years ago, less than 50% of the population had access to electricity; in 2022, more than 70% of the population has access and the state has an ambitious goal of increasing access to 100% by 2030. The social and political outcomes of this rapid change are not well understood. This paper examines how and if access to electricity is changing how Kenyan citizens participate politically. It examines how and if access to electricity changes the mode and target of claim-making, and the character of the claims made.

Discussant: Rachael McLellan (University of Glasgow)



13 FEBRUARY

Building Fiscal Capacity with Traditional Political Institutions: Experimental and Qualitative Evidence from Sierra Leone

Kevin Grieco (University of California, Los Angeles)

How can weak states build fiscal capacity? I argue that governments in weak states can build fiscal capacity by collaborating with non-state, traditional political institutions (TPIs). Using a mix of experimental and qualitative evidence, I show that this collaboration increases citizens' compliance because TPIs possess legitimacy and coercive capacity. Collaborating with the local government in Kono District, Sierra Leone, I embedded an experiment in their campaign to collect property taxes. Potential taxpayers were shown awareness videos that varied in their content, particularly in terms of whether and how their local paramount chief characterized his involvement in tax collection. I find that state collaboration with TPIs increases citizens' compliance with a newly introduced property tax and that TPIs' authority stems from both their legitimacy and coercive capacity. Qualitative evidence from 300 semi-structured interviews adds a richer description of legitimacy and coercive capacity in my context. I argue, based on qualitative evidence, that legitimacy and coercion are complementary mechanisms of TPIs' authority, enabling them to effectively coordinate collective action to produce local public goods in the absence of the state.

Discussant: Kerem Yildirim (Bilkent University)

27 FEBRUARY

The Impacts of Climate Change on the Livelihoods of Small-Scale Traders in Zambia: A Case Study of Cross-Border Traders in Kazungula District

Victor Saidu Phiri (Governance and Local Development Institute)

Climate change is one of the global problems that the world is facing today. Previous studies have shown that climate change has negatively affected the livelihoods of vulnerable populations. However, understanding climate change is usually influenced by its effects on a person's livelihood. For agriculture-dependent communities, it has been documented that climate change includes rainfall variability and its effects on production. Nevertheless, there is limited evidence regarding climate change and its effects on non-agriculture-dependent livelihoods. This study builds on the current literature by investigating the impacts of climate change on the livelihoods of the cross-border traders in Kazungula

District. The study adopted a single case study design and employed semi-structured interviews, a focus group discussion, and document analysis. The study was guided by the Sustainable Livelihood Approach and Capability Approach. The study found that traders understood climate change as rainfall variability, extreme temperature, and drought. The effects of climate change were mainly associated with mobility and reduced profits in their business, which impacted their ability to meet basic needs. The respondents had opted for coping strategies, including joining village banking groups, giving goods on credit, and changing their type of business. However, the adaptation process was impacted by other factors, such as border restrictions (related to power relations), limited access to financial capital, and a lack of skills and institutions to support the traders to adapt to the impacts of climate change effectively. It can be argued that the impacts of climate change on the livelihoods of cross-border traders are acute and have limited options for adaptation. Hence, policy interventions should be open to including non-agricultural dependent livelihoods.

Discussant: Christopher Carter (The University of Virginia)

12 MARCH

Seasonal Migration

Zara Riaz (Columbia University)

How does individual mobility affect collective action? Existing literature presents pessimistic accounts of the influence of migration on cooperative behavior; in-migration can increase group heterogeneity with consequences for social trust and cohesion and out-migration can result in the loss of individuals who previously contributed to collective structures. A focus on permanent exit and entry, however, understates the fact these migration types often occur alongside other forms of mobility. This paper examines the influence of temporary migration---a widespread demographic phenomenon in the Global South---on cooperative behavior in origin communities. It first employs a survey experiment with 4,400 respondents from rural Senegal and shows that temporary migrants are on average perceived to contribute to village-level collective structures at higher rates than non-migrants. These differences operate primarily through perceptions of migrants' higher incomes. Second, in-depth interviews with 145 Senegalese village chiefs suggest that chiefs who are installed via democratic rather than hereditary processes are more likely to incorporate migrants into village-level governance. Together, these findings suggest that, while temporary migration may equip individuals with resources that facilitate collective action, local political institutions can moderate the degree to which these resources are deployed.

Discussant: Katrin Hofer (ETH Zürich)

26 MARCH

How to Study Urban Transportation Policies and Politics in the Global South? A Conceptual and Analytical Framework

Ivan Souza Vieira (Centro de Investigación y Docencia Económicas)

Urban transportation significantly impacts the daily lives of city residents worldwide. Despite this, mainstream political science studies have allocated relatively little attention to urban transport compared to other urban public goods. Recognizing this scholarly gap, I propose a comprehensive conceptual and analytical framework to facilitate an in-depth examination of urban transportation systems' intricate political, economic, and social dynamics. The framework's central focus resides in two primary dimensions: affordability and quality. It demonstrates how the interplay between these dimensions engenders four discernible types of "fare regimes" – prohibitive, inclusive, restrictive, and cheap service trap. The framework's primary purpose is to provide political scientists with robust analytical tools for both theoretical and empirical investigations in urban transport. The framework's utility is illustrated through an examination of specific fare regimes in urban bus systems operating in Global South cities.

Discussant: Noura Wahby (The American University in Cairo)

9 APRIL

Perceptions of State-Society Interactions for Local Development from the Periphery *Katrin Hofer (ETH Zürich)*

This paper investigates the public's perception of engaging with the state for local development. Building on the case of Bramfischerville, a low-income residential area at the periphery of Johannesburg, it examines residents' understandings and expectations of institutionalised forms of public participation for the development of their area. The research draws on eight months of fieldwork and a mixed methods approach, combining findings from qualitative group interviews with residents of Bramfischerville, key informant interviews, and observations from the field. This is complemented by findings from an original baseline survey (n=502) among inhabitants of the settlement. Overall, the findings reveal residents emphasize the importance of state-led public participation in local development. At the same time, they express deep dissatisfaction and frustration with current (governance) processes; they feel far removed from decision makers, disconnected, and left behind. It is also evident that

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there are multiple understandings of who government is for and how some of the governance processes, including institutionalised forms of public participation, work. In the absence of the state, informal grassroots governance structures serve as platforms for residents to come together, receive information, voice grievances, and discuss issues impacting everyday life. Yet, these grassroots structures lack meaningful links to formal governance processes. The study's central argument underscores residents' desire to establish a more sustainable and reliable relationship with the state, particularly at higher levels of government. This indicates a need for improving the connection between the state and citizens to enhance local development initiatives.

Discussant: Prisca Jöst (University of Konstanz)



23 APRIL

Religion and Programmatic Politics in Sub-Saharan Africa

Kate Baldwin (Yale University)

Can religion serve as a basis for increasing commitment to programmatic politics in countries with limited programmatic voting? Much of the existing literature suggests this is unlikely insofar as religion serves as a form of communal identity that can reinforce non-programmatic distributive politics. But religion is also a source of moral commitment to rules. As a result, under some circumstances, religious position-taking might encourage greater programmatic voting. I test this drawing on evidence from endorsement experiments overlaid on candidate choice experiments in Tanzania and Zambia. These are both settings in which major religious leaders took a coordinated programmatic position on a major policy issue. I find that coordinated religious position-taking encourages programmatic voting in Zambia and among Christians in Tanzania, but it discourages it among Muslims in Tanzania. The underscores the possibility for religious appeals to generate both moral commitments and communal identities.

Discussant: Adam Harris (University College London)

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Discussant: Rachael McLellan (University of Glasgow)