



Governance and Local
Development Institute



UNIVERSITY OF
GOTHENBURG

Work-in-Progress Workshop

SCHEDULE, FALL 2024

Work-in-Progress Workshop, Fall 2024 Schedule

12 SEPTEMBER

Community Capacity or State Weakness? Customary Institutions and Nonstate Security Provision in Burkina Faso

Lauren Honig (Boston College)

In the absence of effective provision of security by states, citizens throughout the world have turned to armed groups of civilians or self-defense groups (SDGs) for protection. In Burkina Faso, SDGs have proliferated in the context of increasing violence against civilians and a prolonged security crisis. Conventional wisdom suggests that demand-side factors, particularly state weakness and civilian threat, should drive citizens to create and engage with alternative forms of security provision. However, supply-side factors are also essential for explaining the growth of SDGs. I argue that strong customary institutions can facilitate collective action for security provision. This paper presents evidence of a systematic pattern, in which departments with stronger customary institutions are more likely to have SDG activity between 2010 and 2022. Threats on civilians and Jihadist activity also have an effect; the significant interaction of threat and customary institutions suggests that as threat arises, customary institutions facilitate security provision. A second set of analyses at the individual level suggests that increased legitimacy is one mechanism connecting strong customary institutions to the coordination of self-defense activities. Among citizens, popular support for SDGs is associated with being subject to stronger chiefs, independent of trust in the state, personal insecurity, ethnicity, and access to state services. The findings draw upon an original data set of 810 articles from the Burkinabé news media about SDG activity, ACLED conflict event reporting, and Afrobarometer survey responses. The results provide an institutionalist explanation for armed group activity in conflict and highlight how historical institutions impact citizens' access to vital governance services.

Discussant: Adam Auerbach (Johns Hopkins University)

26 SEPTEMBER

Traditional Authority and Natural Resource Governance in Malawi

Amanda Robinson (The Ohio State University)

Like much of the rest of the world, Malawi is in a deforestation crisis. Most forest resources are co-managed by communities living adjacent to the forests and government agencies. On the community side, Malawi's 268 traditional chiefs are the most important actors, as they both guide the establishment of local guidelines for forest use and enforce sanctions on those who violate the rules. In this paper, we evaluate the characteristics of traditional chiefs that are associated with improved forest preservation in the form of both limiting deforestation and promoting reforestation. We measure changes in forest cover using high-resolution satellite images from multiple sources (ESRI, Dynamic World, and GEDI lidar) to track deforestation and reforestation in Malawi over a six-year period (2016-2022) and link this data spatially with the jurisdictions of different traditional chiefs. We also leverage original data on the characteristics of traditional authorities, including their gender, age, education, ethnicity, tenure, mode of emergence, and institutional structures. The research represents a first step in understanding how traditional authority interacts with natural resource governance, as well as a broader understanding of the features of traditional institutions that promote good stewardship.

Discussant: Chris Carter (University of Virginia)

10 OCTOBER

Pre-Analysis Plan: The Nature and Determinants of the Mental Load in Developing Countries

Ioanna Gkoutna (University College London)

The mental load is the cognitive household labor that is required to anticipate, fulfill, and monitor household needs. An increasing body of work shows that women take over more of the mental load in a household than men. However, studies on the mental load focus predominantly on the US (Weeks, 2022; Daminger, 2019; Allen and Hawkins, 1999) or Europe (Haupt and Gelbgiser, 2023). Lack of research on the mental load beyond the West poses a significant gap in the literature, for a number of reasons. First, gender gaps in the mental load are likely to be larger in low- and middle-

income compared to high-income settings, given high cognitive consequences of poverty, higher frequencies in household shocks, weaker welfare states, and more complex family and household arrangements in place for the former. Second, the mental load gender gap is likely to have important implications for women's political and economic empowerment (Weeks, 2022; Helgoy & Weeks, 2023). In view of this research gap, this project will be the first to conceptualise the origins and nature of the mental load in the context of the global South. Particular attention will be paid to understanding how the mental load informs our understanding of intra-household bargaining models. In addition to this theoretical contribution, this project will be the first to measure the mental load and its effects on women's political participation in a global South context. To complete this project, we plan to conduct focus groups and collect survey data from Zambia.

Discussant: Ana Weeks (University of Bath)

23 OCTOBER (NB Wednesday)

Promoting (Gender) Equality in Fragile States: Tax Preferences in Haiti

Ana Isabel Lopez Garcia (Maastricht University)

How can taxation be made socially desirable in fragile states? In these states, coercion is not effective to increase tax collection, yet stronger enforcement is commonly advised. Public-opinion research on taxation in fragile states is however limited and often overlooks local taxes. This project explores how citizens in fragile states can be lured to voluntarily accept progressive gender-supportive taxation. Drawing on original survey experiments with respondents in Haiti and Kosovo, it identifies locally-based strategies to build support for property taxes, with attention to the tax preferences of the wealthy and their gendered implications.

Discussant: Intissar Kherigi (Ibn Haldun University)



7 NOVEMBER

Being Seen by the State: Programmatic Cash Transfers and Women's Political Participation in Pakistan

Rehan Jamil (London School of Economics and Political Science)

Does access to programmatic cash transfers increase marginalized citizens' political participation in new democracies? This paper addresses this question by analyzing the political effects of one of the largest cash transfer programs targeted at women in the Global South: the Benazir Income Support Programme. We develop a theory of how programmatic cash transfers can create pathways out of patron-client ties by formalizing excluded citizens' political and social rights. We test this theory using survey data on political behavior from respondents just above and below the formal beneficiary cut-off. We find little evidence that the BISP cash transfer mobilized recipients to vote for the original benefit-giving party or subsequent incumbents in two national elections. Instead, we find evidence that access to cash transfers reduced program recipients' reliance on traditional rural patronage institutions. These findings highlight how programmatic social policies can help reduce patronage and create new citizen-state linkages.

Discussant: Aysegul Kayaoglu (University of Bremen)



Work-in-Progress Workshop, Fall 2024 Schedule

21 NOVEMBER

Ethnic Enclaves and Refugee Employment

Aysegul Kayaoglu (University of Bremen)

Causal evidence about the impact of ethnic enclaves on refugees' employment is scarce, and those few that are available pertain only to refugee communities in a few developed countries, which, as a result, remain too narrow to be generalisable to other refugee populations elsewhere. Moreover, the available evidence is only informative about the net impact of ethnic enclaves. That said, we do not have information about the mechanisms that play a significant role in this net effect. This paper contributes to the literature, first, by providing causal evidence on the topic in a developing country context where the largest refugee population is hosted in the world and, second, by presenting evidence about the mechanisms that are argued to play a role in the net impact of ethnic enclaves. To do so, it uses nationally representative survey data of refugees in Turkey and combines it with the administrative data of the refugee population in the NUTS-3 level geographical area. It then provides a gender-sensitive analysis of the size and quality impacts of ethnic enclaves on the paid employment probabilities of refugees. Findings show it is instead the informal job referrals in the ethnic network that positively affect the employment of refugees, not the labour demand from the Syrian businesses or the increased population of refugees in the enclave with a high school degree and above. Moreover, refugee women benefit significantly less from all the employment mechanisms that play an essential role for refugee men, although ethnic enclave size is more beneficial for women.

Discussant: Jessie Trudeau (Syracuse University)



5 DECEMBER

Implications of Affirmative Actions on Political Attitudes

Komal Preet Kaur (University of Colorado, Boulder)

I delve into the role of electoral quotas in electoral mobilization. Recognizing that support for quotas varies depending on which groups stand out to gain and which groups will lose, I adopt a comparative and intersectional approach to assess the impact of gender and ethnic quotas on political behavior across different sub-groups. Through a field-based survey experiment involving 1,989 individuals in rural India, I examine how quotas implemented at the local government level influence political participation and efficacy among dominant and non-dominant men and women. I find that quotas mobilize groups receiving the benefit of quotas but simultaneously demobilize dominant groups. Additionally, dominant groups exhibit higher levels of discriminatory attitudes towards women and ethnic minorities with exposure to quotas. These results shed light on the unintended consequences of quotas and prompt further reflection on their broader societal implications.

Discussant: Marwa Shalaby
(University of Wisconsin-Madison)

