



## **Governance and Public Goods Provision Conference**

### **Poverty and Governance Program**

#### **Stanford University**

CISAC Central Conference Room, Encina Hall 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor

May 18-19, 2012

This conference brings together a multidisciplinary group of scholars to present on-going research on the links between governance and public goods provision in the developing world. The provision of public goods in low-income countries has been attributed to both supply-side and demand-side problems. Weak or dysfunctional institutions are credited with poor provision of services while badly informed, apathetic or distrustful citizens are often cited as the cause of insufficient demand for high-quality public goods.

The conference brings together papers on the supply-side and demand-side of governance, asking whether governance supplied in different ways, by different formal or informal institutions, or under different political contexts, impacts the provision of public goods; and exploring the features of the electorate, including voter information, ethnic heterogeneity, and income inequality, that induce governments to respond in different manners to the demand for public services. The conference also focuses on government corruption and electoral clientelism, which are major impediments for the delivery of public services, and ways to reduce these practices and increase government accountability. The critical role of external actors in the provision of public goods is also explored, with a focus on the tensions and opportunities that their involvement creates for states and society.

**Day One: May 18, 2012***CISAC Central Conference Room, Encina Hall 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor***8:00-8:30 am** *Breakfast***8:30-8:45 am Welcoming Remarks:** *Beatriz Magaloni, Stanford University***8:45-10:30 am Panel 1: Leader selection**

How leaders are selected plays an important role in their subsequent decision-making. It shapes whom they are responsible to, their planning horizons, and the actions they must take to keep their jobs. This panel addresses the differential effects of how leaders come to power – whether it be through democratic or authoritarian – and the rules used to select them on their performance in office.

- Discussant: Justin Grimmer
- Guy Grossman, Princeton University: “Causal effects of leader selection rules on leader responsiveness and cooperation: evidence from Ugandan community organizations.”
- Grant Miller, Stanford University: “Political Incentives for Health Improvements: Governance, the GOBI initiative, and the Child Survival Revolution.”
- Kevin Morrison, Cornell University: “Government Spending and Re-election: Quasi-Experimental Evidence from Brazilian Municipalities.”

**10:30-10:45 am** *Break***10:45-12:30 pm Panel 2: Differential sources of government revenue: resource rents and taxes**

Budgets for public services can be alimented with tax revenue, natural resource rents, transfers from other levels of government, or external agencies. This panel addresses how the source of a government’s revenue and the mechanism through which it is collected affect accountability in governance, in particular the provision of public goods.

- Discussant: David Laitin
- Laura Paler, Columbia University: “Keeping the Public Purse: An Experiment in Windfalls, Taxes, and the Incentives to Restrain Government.”
- Fred Finan, University of California, Berkeley: “Strengthening State Capabilities: The Role of Financial Incentives in the Call to Public Service.”
- Lucie Gadenne, Paris School of Economics: “Tax Me But Spend Wisely, The Political Economy of Taxes, Theory and Evidence from Brazil.”

**12:30-1:30 pm** *Lunch*

**1:30-3:15 pm Panel 3: External vs. internal provision of public goods, and the role of foreign aid**

In vast areas of the developing world, external actors such as international organizations, donors and multinational corporations have become key players in the provision of public goods. What challenges, tensions and opportunities does this arrangement create? Does external provision undermine society and state capacity and sovereignty, particularly in areas of limited statehood, or is it complementary?

- Discussant: Jim Fearon
- Stephen Krasner, Stanford University, and Thomas Risse, Freie Universität, Berlin: “External Actors and the Provision of Collective Goods in Areas of Limited Statehood.”
- Melissa Lee and Melina Platas, Stanford University: “PEPFAR in Africa: Beyond HIV/AIDS.”
- Edward Miguel, University of California, Berkeley: “Reshaping Institutions: Evidence on Aid Impacts Using a Pre-Analysis Plan.”

**3:15-3:30 pm** *Break*

**3:30-5:00 pm Panel 4: The role of income inequality and ethnic diversity**

Communities may have similar institutional arrangements such as leader selection rules or tax systems and at the same time experience very different levels of government performance. Institutions are supported by norms and behaviors that vary across communities. This panel studies the features of communities, such as income inequality and ethnic diversity, which impact the provision of public goods.

- Discussant: Gary Cox
- Alex Ruiz, University of California, San Diego; 2011-2012 pre-doctoral fellow at CDDRL: “Electoral Competition, Income Inequality and Public Goods: A Subnational Assessment.”
- Eric Kramon, University of California, Los Angeles; 2011-2012 pre-doctoral fellow at CDDRL: “Ethnic Favoritism in Primary Education in Kenya.”

**Day 2: May 19, 2012***CISAC Central Conference Room, Encina Hall 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor***8:00-8:30 am** *Breakfast***8:30-10:00 am Panel 5: The role of voter information on public good provision and redistributive politics**

High information asymmetry or uncertainty among voters over how politicians behave leads to decreased electoral control where voters are less able to hold politicians accountable. These papers study how improving information among voters affects governance outcomes, such as the provision of public goods and the distribution of government transfers.

- Discussant: Alberto Diaz-Cayeros
- Stuti Khemani, The World Bank: “Do Informed Citizens Receive More...or Pay More?: The Impact of Radio on the Government Distribution of Public Health Benefits,” and “Mass Media and Public Services: The Effects of Radio Access on Public Education in Benin.”
- Katherine Casey, Stanford University: “Crossing Party Lines: The Effects of Information on Redistributive Politics.”

**10:00-10:15 am** *Break***10:15-12:00 pm Panel 6: Traditional governance and the provision of public goods**

In many areas of the developing world, traditional authorities co-exist with formal ones. These parallel organizational governance structures -- i.e., clans, tribes, religious or traditional authorities-- can play an important role in the provision of local public goods. These papers study the role of these traditional governance practices and authorities in the provision of public goods.

- Discussant: Scott Rozelle
- Lisa Blaydes, Stanford University: “How Does Islamist Local Governance Affect the Lives of Women? A Comparative Study of Two Cairo Neighborhoods.”
- Alberto Diaz-Cayeros, Beatriz Magaloni and Alex Ruiz “Traditional Governance and Public Good Provision: Evidence from Mexico”
- Kate Baldwin, University of Florida: “Why Vote with the Chief? Political Connections and Public Goods Provision in Zambia.”

**12:00-1:00 pm** *Lunch***1:00-2:45 pm Panel 7: Corruption and abuse of power**

Far too often public goods are not provided because of government corruption and abuse of power. Government corruption might be the product of limited oversight, failures of electoral accountability, and lack of rule of law. But it also might emerge because voters intentionally or unintentionally elect corrupt leaders. These papers study causes and consequences of corruption and ways to prevent abuses of power, including electoral intimidation.

- Discussant: Vivek Srinivasan
- Miriam Golden, Princeton University: “Theft and Loss of Electricity in an Indian State.”
- Rebecca Weitz-Shapiro, Brown University: “Lacking Information or Condoning Corruption: When Will Voters Support Corrupt Politicians?”
- Cyrus Samii, New York University: “Preventing Electoral Intimidation: Evidence From A Field Experiment In Liberia.”

**2:45-3:00 pm Closing Discussion**