Electoral clientelism and corruption

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In many elections around the world, a large number of voters are influenced by promises or threats, contingent on how they vote. This course introduces students to a large literature in political science that examines the conditions leading to the election of such corrupt candidates and the tools available to voters to limit electoral corruption. The course introduces students to the most recent theoretical debates in the study of corruption and to several new research methods that allow us to measure such illicit activities.

Session 1: Concepts and methods

(a) Concepts


(b) Methods

Tuesday: Historical Perspectives


Wednesday: Contemporary Studies of clientelism (a)


Banerjee, et. al. 2014. Are poor voters indifferent to whether elected leaders are criminal or corrupt? A vignette experiment in rural India. *Political Communications*. 31:3, 391- 407.

Thursday: Contemporary studies of clientelism (b)

(a) Clientelism in Eastern Europe


(b) Do voters punish clientelism?


Friday: Design of survey items measuring irregularities

This is a hands-on session where we will apply the main concepts of the course to design different survey instruments measuring various irregularities. Participants in the class are responsible for fielding the survey.