Electoral clientelism, patronage and corruption
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Course description

This study provides an overview of the literature examining various illicit strategies used by candidates to subvert democratic electoral practices. The main goal of the course is to introduce a recent and vibrant literature in political science and economics and to expose students to the most important areas of ongoing scholarly controversy. At the same time, the course introduces a range of research methods that allow researchers to document a range of illicit practices.

Course requirements and grading

This course covers a large amount of material during a very short period of time. Class attendance and participation is mandatory. In addition to class participation, the main requirement that will be graded will be a research proposal that extends or challenges one of the writings discussed in class or that proposes the study of a dimension of clientelism not considered by existing approaches.

Your final grade will be determined as follows:
(a) class attendance (20%)
(b) class participation (40%)
(c) proposal for research paper (40%)
OVERVIEW OF COURSE

Session 1: The study of electoral clientelism: Definition, research questions


Session 2: Research methods for the study of electoral clientelism.


Session 3
Patronage


Session 4 Vote buying


Finan, Frederico and Schechter, Laura. 2012. Vote-buying and Reciprocity, Econometrica. 80:2, 865-881.


Session 5 Policy favors


Session 6
Ethnicity and clientelism


Session 7 Electoral coercion


**Session 8 Welfare coercion**


**Session 9 Thugs and criminals**


**Session 10 Evaluating clientelism: Do voters punish or reward clientelistic strategies?**


**Session 11 Designing survey instruments to measure illicit strategies**


**Session 12 Discussion of research proposals**
In this session, we will draw on the material discussed in class to develop and assess a variety of projects that seek to assess different illicit strategies using a combination of list-experiments, conjoint-experiments and vignettes.