

SPRING 2022 IPRC RESEARCH WEBINARS ABSTRACTS

February 16, 2022

Jack Santucci (Drexel University)

“More Parties or No Parties: The Politics of Electoral Reform in America”

This talk covers the 'shifting coalitions' theory of electoral-system change, the role of anti-party reforms (such as ranked-choice voting) in American and urban political development, and the prospects for electoral reform going forward. The talk is based on Santucci's forthcoming book, *More Parties or No Parties: The Politics of Electoral Reform in America* (Oxford UP).

March 2, 2022

Soomi Lee (University of La Verne)

“Emergency Loan Distribution through Regional Banking Markets: Examining the Paycheck Protection Program during the COVID-19 Pandemic”

In response to the negative economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, the U.S. government implemented the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) to preserve employment. Since PPP was channeled through banks, regional characteristics of the banking sector potentially result in uneven program reach. This paper examines how regional variations in market concentration and community banks contribute to PPP loan disbursement. Using the U.S. county-level data, I find that greater market concentration reduces the number of PPP loans per business. This negative effect is mitigated by a greater presence of community banks, but only in a highly concentrated market.

March 23, 2022

Tyler Reny (Tyler Reny, Andrew Reeves, and Dino Christenson)

“How Vulnerability Shapes Climate Policy Attitudes: The Case of Rising Sea Levels”

The earth's warming climate poses many risks to human beings and other forms of life on earth. Yet solving this building crisis involves a temporal tradeoff: make costly policy changes now to avert the worst future disasters. Existing research suggests that this will be difficult—environmental policy attitudes are stable, polarized, predominantly acquired through partisan elite messaging, and only moderately responsive in the short-term to large shocks like exposure to catastrophic environmental events. But what about susceptibility to climate extremes like rising sea levels that can render entire communities uninhabitable within our lifetimes? Is living in a coastal community that is susceptible to such existential risk associated with stronger support for climate mitigation policies? Using a variety of original and publicly available surveys from 2010 to present, we establish a clear link between susceptibility to sea-level rise and support for climate mitigation policy, offer evidence for

several potential mechanisms, and show that the results are robust to a variety of methodological and substantive choices.

April 6, 2022

Michele Ver Ploeg (George Washington University)
“Policy Research in the Federal Government”

Many Federal government agencies hire PhD social scientists to conduct research and policy analysis, develop data sources, and carry out a research agenda by administering grant programs. This presentation will outline the types of jobs available in the Federal government and provide tips for navigating the Federal hiring process. Dr. Ver Ploeg will also draw upon her own 19 years of experiences in the Federal government.

April 20, 2022

Yesola Kweon, Ph.D., Sungkyunkwan University (South Korea)
"Why Do Young Men Oppose Gender Quotas? Group Threat and Backlash to Legislative Gender Quotas"

Despite increasing efforts to implement legislative gender quotas, many countries still encounter substantial popular opposition to this policy. Previous work cannot explain why opposition to legislative gender quotas persists, particularly among young men, a group believed to be open to diversity. We develop and test a theoretical framework linking group threat to men's attitudes toward legislative gender quotas. While the salience of perceived group threat could trigger men's opposition to legislative gender quotas, we expect that this effect will be more profound among young men due to the heightened degree of economic insecurity experienced by younger generations. Using original survey experiments in South Korea, this study demonstrates the strong influence of group threat in the formation of negative attitudes toward legislative gender quotas among young men. These effects, however, are not mediated by traditional gender norms. Our findings have significant implications for the study of gender and politics and democratic representation.