



**Ben Gurion University**  
**Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences**  
**Department of Economics**

**Name of course:** Seminar on political economy of development

**Name of lecturer:** Ada Gonzalez-Torres

**Course Objectives**

The purpose of this seminar is to develop research ideas in applied topics in development economics or political economy. The research assignment will include a critical literature review and a personal contribution.

**Course Outline**

The project must include a personal contribution which can consist of any of the three alternatives chosen by the student:

(1) Literature study:

- comparison of at least 3 papers on a specific question in development or political economy, or
- a critical review of the literature on a specific topic in development or political economy;

(2) Research proposal:

- motivation, hypothesis, empirical strategy, description of required data, and expected results;

(3) Independent research study:

- students conducting an independent research study are encouraged to work in pairs;

The seminar includes the following stages:

- First introductory meeting in class
- Individual progress meeting before confirming the topic assignment
- Confirmation of the topic
- Individual progress meetings during the course for instruction and advice on the project
- Presentation of the project and discussions in class
- Submission of the paper

In addition, depending on the number of students, each student will discuss a classmate's project on the day of the presentations.

### **Course and grade requirements**

The performance on the presentation makes up 20% of the course grade. The discussions can give additional points. 80% of the grade will be based on the written seminar assignment or research project.

<b>משקל בציון הסופי</b>	
Attendance/Discussions	as described above
Presentation	20%
Paper	80%
Total	100%

### **Bibliography**

#### **Origins of the state**

Sanchez de la Sierra, Raul (2017) "On the Origin of States: Stationary Bandits and Taxation in Eastern Congo", Journal of Political Economy, R&R.

#### **Institutions and Culture**

Acemoglu, Daron, Simon Johnson, and James A. Robinson (2001). "The colonial origins of comparative development: An empirical investigation." American economic review 91.5. 1369-1401.

Burgess, Robin, Remi Jedwab, Edward Miguel, Ameet Morjaria, Gerard Padro-i-Miquel. (2015). "The Value of Democracy: Evidence from Road Building in Kenya", American Economic Review, 105(6), 1817-1851.

Dal Bo, Pedro, Andrew Foster, Louis Putterman (2010) "Institutions and Behavior: Experimental Evidence on the Effects of Democracy", American Economic Review, 100(5), 2205-2229.

Lowes, Sara, Nathan Nunn, James A. Robinson, and Jonathan Weigel (2016). "The Evolution of Culture and Institutions: Evidence from the Kuba Kingdom," *Econometrica*, 2017.

### **Persistence of historical institutions**

Dell, Melissa. (2010). "The Persistent Effects of Peru's Mining Mita", *Econometrica*, 78(6), 1863-1903.

Michalopoulos, Stelios, and Elias Papaioannou. (2013). "Pre-colonial ethnic institutions and contemporary African development", *Econometrica*, 81(1), 113-152.

Nunn, Nathan (2008): "The Long-Term Effects of Africa's Slave Trade", *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, 123(1): 139-176.

Nunn, Nathan, and Leonard Wantchekon (2011): "The Slave Trade and the Origins of Mistrust in Africa", *American Economic Review*, 101(7): 3221-3252.

### **Corruption and Networks**

Ferraz, Claudio, and Fred Finan. (2008). "Exposing Corruption politicians: The Effects of Brazil's Publicly Released Audits on Electoral Outcomes", *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, 123(2), 703 - 745.

Olken, B. A. and Patrick Barron (2009). "The Simple Economics of Extortion: Evidence from Trucking in Aceh" *Journal of Political Economy*, 117:3, 417-452

Xu, Guo (2017). "The Costs of Patronage: Evidence from the British Empire," LSE working paper.

### **Media**

Snyder, James and David Strömberg (2010). "Press Coverage and Political Accountability", *Journal of Political Economy*, 118(2), 355 - 408.

Enikolopov, Ruben, Maria Petrova, and Ekaterina Zhuravskaya (2011). "Media and Political Persuasion: Evidence from Russia," *American Economic Review*, 111(7), pp. 3253-85.

Stromberg, David (2004). "Radio's Impact on Public Spending," *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, 119 (1), pp. 189-221.

Yuyu Chen, David Y. Yang, "The Impact of Media Censorship: 1984 or Brave New World?", *AER R&R* 2018

### **Political movements**

Cantoni, Davide, David Y. Yang, Noam Yuchtman, and Y. Jane Zhang, "Are Protests Games of Strategic Complements or Substitutes? Experimental Evidence from Hong Kong's Democracy Movement," UC-Berkeley working paper.

Enikolopov, Ruben, Maria Petrova, and Aleksey Makarin (2016). "Social Media and Protest Participation: Evidence from Russia," Universitat Pompeu Fabra working paper.

## **Conflict**

Blattman, Christopher and Edward Miguel. (2010). "Civil War", *Journal of Economic Literature*, 48(1), 3-57.

Burke, Marshall, and Eoin McGuirk. (2017). "The Economic Origins of Conflict in Africa", unpublished working paper.

Chassang, Sylvain, and Gerard Padro-i-Miquel. (2010). "Economic Shocks and Civil War", *Quarterly Journal of Political Science*, 4(3), 211-228.

Berman, Nicolas, et al. "This mine is mine! How minerals fuel conflicts in Africa." *American Economic Review* 107.6 (2017): 1564-1610.

Hsiang, Solomon, Marshall Burke, and Edward Miguel. (2013). "Quantifying the Influence of Climate on Human Conflict", *Science*, 10.1126/science.1235367.

Jha, Saumitra, and Moses Shayo (2018) "Valuing Peace: The Effects of Stock Market Exposure on Votes and Political Attitudes", R & R at *Econometrica*

Miguel, Edward, Shanker Satyanath, and Ernest Sergenti. (2004). "Economic Shocks and Civil Conflict: An Instrumental Variables Approach", *Journal of Political Economy*, 112(4), 725-753.

**Background reading:** Powell, Robert. (2006). "War as a Commitment Problem", *International Organization*, 60, 169-203.

## **Ethnic and social divisions**

Alesina, Alberto, Reza Baqir, and William Easterly (1999). "Public Goods and Ethnic Divisions." *The Quarterly Journal of Economics* 114 (4): 1243-1284

Easterly, William and Ross Levine. (1997). "Africa's Growth Tragedy", *The Quarterly journal of economics* 112.4 (1997): 1203-1250.

Francois, Patrick, Ilia Rainer, and Francesco Trebbi (2015) "How Is Power Shared in Africa?", *Econometrica*.

Glennster, Rachel, Edward Miguel, and Alexander D. Rothenberg. "Collective action in diverse Sierra Leone communities." *The Economic Journal* 123.568 (2013): 285-316.

Habyarimana, J., Humphreys, M., Posner D.N, Weinstein, J.M. (2007). "Why Does Ethnic Diversity Undermine Public Goods Provision?", *American Political Science Review*, 101(4), pp. 709-725

Hjort, Jonas, Ethnic Divisions and Production in Firms *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, vol. 129, no. 4, 1899-1946, November 2014.

### **The Psychology of Poverty**

Blattman, Chris, Julian Jamison and Margaret Sheridan (2017) : « Reducing crime and violence: Experimental evidence on cognitive behavioral therapy in Liberia. » *American Economic Review*

Chemin, M., De Laat, J., & Haushofer, J. (2013). Negative rainfall shocks increase levels of the stress hormone cortisol among poor farmers in Kenya. Working paper

Haushofer, J., & Shapiro, J. (2016). The Short-Term Impact of Unconditional Cash Transfers to the Poor: Experimental Evidence from Kenya. *The Quarterly Journal of Economics* 131(4), 1973–2042. (Pre-analysis plan and Data on website : <http://www.princeton.edu/haushofer/> )

Kremer, Michael, Supreet Kaur, and Sendhil Mullainathan. 2015. "Self Control at Work." *Journal of Political Economy* 123 (6): 1227 - 1277.

Mani, A., Mullainathan, S., Shafir, E. and Zhao, J., 2013. Poverty impedes cognitive function. *Science*, 341(6149), pp.976-980.

**Background reading** : Haushofer, J., & Fehr, E. (2014). On the psychology of poverty. *Science*, 344(6186), 862–867.