J-PAL
ABDUL LATIF JAMEEL POVERTY ACTION LAB

BRIDGING DISCIPLINES TO ADVANCE GOVERNANCE RESEARCH
Collaborations on gender, social networks, and climate change

4 December 2023 | 8:30 am – 5:00 pm | *One Birdcage Walk, London*

8:30am   **REGISTRATION,** *accompanied by coffee and pastries*

9am–9:10am   **OPENING REMARKS**

Rohini Pande, Henry J. Heinz II Professor of Economics and Director of the Economic Growth Center at Yale University, will introduce the event as a J-PAL Governance Initiative Co-Chair.

9:10am–10am   **PERSPECTIVES ON THE CHALLENGES AND IMPORTANCE OF MULTIDISCIPLINARY COLLABORATION IN GOVERNANCE RESEARCH**

The challenge of poor governance is multifaceted, and our approach to developing solutions must be too. Multidisciplinary collaborations have the potential to strengthen the quality of governance research and improve our understanding of social and behavioral factors that shape governance and political participation. Still, such collaborations can come with unique challenges, like identifying collaborators and getting past jargon to "speak the same language." Panelists will discuss their experiences bringing multiple disciplines together and the value that was added to their work, highlighting insights from their research. The session will include a moderated Q&A and audience questions.

Panelists:

- **Nava Ashraf,** Professor of Economics at the London School of Economics and Political Science, to present on her research project "Losing Prosociality in the Quest for Talent? Sorting, Selection, and Productivity in the delivery of Public Services."
- **Michael Muthukrishna,** Associate Professor of Economic Psychology at the London School of Economics and Political Science, to discuss his research on "Cultural Evolutionary Behavioural Science in Public Policy."
- **Noam Yuchtman,** Drummond Professor of Political Economy at the University of Oxford, to present his research on "Exporting the Surveillance State via Trade in AI."

10am   **COFFEE BREAK**

10:30am–12pm   **GENDER, POLITICAL PARTICIPATION, AND SERVICE DELIVERY**

Gender norms and biases can be a powerful constraint on political participation, and impact the effectiveness of key social programs and government services. This panel will bring together a political scientist, economist, and psychologist who bring different lenses to studying how gender shapes political participation, service delivery, and other governance issues.

Panelists:

- **Soledad Prillaman**, Assistant Professor of Political Science at Stanford University, will discuss her upcoming book *The Patriarchal Political Order* and her related research.

- **Simone Schaner**, Associate Professor of Economics at the University of Southern California, will discuss her research project "The Impact of Citizen-Led Audits on Government Service Provision."
- **Anita Raj**, Executive Director of the Newcomb Institute and the Nancy Reeves Dreux Endowed Chair in the School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine at Tulane University, will discuss her research on gender norms, measurement of empowerment, and gender inequality.

12pm–12:50pm LUNCH BREAK

Guests will enjoy lunch in the venue's Marble Hall and adjoining Gallery.

12:50pm–1:15pm KEYNOTE PRESENTATION

Oeindrila Dube, Philip K. Pearson Professor of Global Conflict Studies at the University of Chicago, will discuss her research project "A Cognitive View of Policing" and reflect on her experience as an economist collaborating closely with psychologists.

1:15pm–2:45pm SOCIAL MEDIA AND SOCIAL NETWORKS

The widening reach of social media has created unprecedented opportunities to target political information to large numbers of individuals at low cost and to organize collective action. This has significant implications for collective decision-making, with potential for both positive and negative impacts—from shaping political preferences to increasing civic engagement to spurring violence. This panel will review multidisciplinary approaches to the study of social media and social networks, highlighting examples related to mis/disinformation, polarization, and hate speech.

Panelists:

- **Teresa Esteban Casanelles**, Lecturer (AP) in Economics and Policy at King's College London, will provide an opening overview of the literature and key open questions on which researchers from across disciplines could collaborate.
- **Jennifer Pan**, Professor of Communications at Stanford University, will discuss her research project "How do Social Media Feed Algorithms Affect Attitudes and Behavior in an Election Campaign?"
- **Carlo Schwarz**, Assistant Professor of Economics at Bocconi University, will discuss his research on social media, content moderation, and hate crimes.
- **Ro'ee Levy**, Assistant Professor of Economics at Tel Aviv University, will discuss his research project "Social Media, News Consumption, and Polarization: Evidence from a Field Experiment."

2:45pm COFFEE BREAK

3pm–4:30pm ENERGY, ENVIRONMENT, CLIMATE CHANGE, AND GOVERNANCE

Researchers are increasingly studying the political economy of climate change reforms: how to build public support for climate policy, increase representation of climate change efforts in policymaking bodies, combat mis- and disinformation around climate change, and overcome collective action issues around overuse of resources. This session will bring together panelists addressing how to build public and political support for climate action from different perspectives.

Panelists:

- **Adrien Fabre**, CNRS researcher at CIRED, will discuss his paper "International Attitudes Toward Global Policies."
- **Madalina Vlasceanu**, Assistant Professor of Psychology at New York University, will discuss her research project "Climate interventions must be tailored to actions and audiences: A 60-country global megastudy."
- **Steven R. Smith**, Tipping Points Research Impact Fellow at the University of Exeter, will present the Global Systems Institute's "Global Tipping Points Report 2023."

4:30pm–5pm　　**BRIEF CLOSING REMARKS AND NETWORKING**

Frederico Finan, J-PAL Governance Initiative co-chair and George Break and Helen Schnacke Break Distinguished Professor of Economics and Professor of Business Administration at UC Berkeley, will give brief closing remarks (10 minutes) and open the floor for networking.

BIOGRAPHIES

BRIDGING DISCIPLINES TO ADVANCE GOVERNANCE RESEARCH
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December 4, 2023

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SPEAKERS

Nava Ashraf
Professor of Economics, London School of Economics and Political Science

Session: Perspectives on the challenges and importance of multidisciplinary collaboration in governance research

Background

Nava Ashraf is Professor of Economics at the London School of Economics and Political Science. She is also Co-Director of the Psychology and Economics program at STICERD, and Founder and Director of the Altruistic Capital Lab in the LSE Department of Economics. Professor Ashraf's research combines psychology and economics, using both lab and field experiments to test insights from behavioural economics in the context of global development in Africa, Latin America, and Southeast Asia. She also conducts research on questions of intra-household decision making in the areas of finance and fertility.
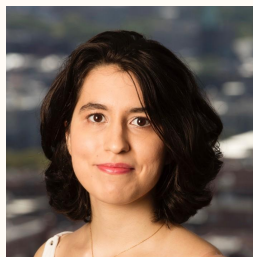
Oeindrila Dube
Philip K. Pearson Professor of Global Conflict Studies, University of Chicago

Session: Keynote presentation

Background

Oeindrila Dube is the Philip K. Pearson Professor of Global Conflict Studies at the University of Chicago, Harris School of Public Policy. Professor Dube studies poverty, violence and crime in countries around the world. One strand of her research analyzes how economic shocks shape conflict dynamics. Another strand examines how cognitive factors give rise to violence. She uses both quasi-experimental and experimental research designs, and draws on a wide variety of sources, including original surveys, hand collected records, and big data to study these questions. Her work has appeared in leading journals including the Quarterly Journal of Economics, Science, the Journal of Political Economy, the Review of Economic Studies, and the American Political Science Review. Dube is a faculty research fellow at the National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER), a fellow at the Bureau for Research and Economic Analysis of

Development (BREAD), a fellow at the Centre for Economic Policy and Research (CEPR) and an affiliate of the University of Chicago Crime Lab. She co-leads the Crime and Violence Initiative at J-PAL, and the Socio-economic Inequalities Initiative at the University of Chicago's Becker Friedman Institute.

Teresa Esteban Casanelles
Lecturer (AP) in Economics and Policy, King's College London

Session: Social media and social networks

Background

Teresa Esteban Casanelles is a Lecturer in Economics and Policy at King's College London, where she researches voting behavior. She is also a board member of the European Young Economists Association (EAYE). Previously, Teresa was a postdoctoral associate with J-PAL's Governance Initiative working on a literature review related to political participation and social media. She received her Ph.D. in Economics from Columbia University.

Adrien Fabre
CNRS Researcher, CIRED

Session: Energy, environment, climate change, and governance

Background

Adrien Fabre is a tenured CNRS researcher at CIRED. He obtained his PhD in 2020 at the Paris School of Economics. His main research is on the political economy of climate policies, though his works span different fields like attitudinal surveys, social choice, or resource economics. Besides his academic work, Adrien is also the founder and President of the association Global Redistribution Advocates.

Frederico Finan

J-PAL Governance Initiative co-chair and George Break and Helen Schnacke Break Distinguished Professor of Economics and Professor of Business Administration at UC Berkeley

Session: Closing remarks

Background

Frederico Finan is the George Break and Helen Schnacke Break Distinguished Professor of Economics and a Professor of Business Administration at the University of California, Berkeley. He is the co-chair of J-PAL's Political Economy and Governance Sector and Governance Initiative. Finan uses the analytical tools of economics and social science to explore the incentives for good governance, the impact of corruption, and the effect of transparency on political accountability, with a regional focus on Latin America. In addition, Finan is a co-director of Berkeley's Center for Economics and Politics and CEGA's Initiative on Economic Development and Institutions.

Ro'ee Levy

Assistant Professor of Economics, Tel Aviv University

Session: Social media and social networks

Background

Ro'ee Levy is senior lecturer (assistant professor) at the Tel Aviv University School of Economics. Before joining Tel Aviv University, Ro'ee was a postdoctoral associate at MIT and received his PhD in economics from Yale University. His research focuses on political economy and social media. He is especially interested in studying the forces shaping social norms, political attitudes, and policy preferences, and their subsequent influence on individual behavior.

Michael Muthukrishna
Assistant Professor of Economic Psychology, London School of Economics and Political Science

Session: Perspectives on the challenges and importance of multidisciplinary collaboration in governance research

Background

Michael Muthukrishna is Associate Professor of Economic Psychology at the London School of Economics. He is also Affiliate of the Developmental Economics Group at STICERD, Affiliate of the LSE Data Science Institute, CIFAR Azrieli Global Scholar in the Boundaries, Membership and Belonging programme at the Canadian Institute for Advanced Research, and Technical Director of The Database of Religious History. He is also a board member of the One Pencil Project. Muthukrishna's research combines mathematical and computational modelling (evolutionary models, social network models, etc.), and experimental and data science methods from psychology and economics. He uses the "Theory of Human Behavior" that emerges from this approach to tackle a variety of related topics, including innovation, corruption, the rise of large-scale cooperation, and the navigation of cross-cultural differences. He is the author of "A Theory of Everyone: Who We Are, How We Got Here, and Where We're Going" and founder of LSE Culturalytik. He is particularly interested in the application of research in cultural evolution to public policy.

Jennifer Pan
Professor of Communications, Stanford University

Session: Social media and social networks

Background

Jennifer Pan is a political scientist whose research focuses on political communication, digital media, and authoritarian politics. She is the Sir Robert Ho Tung Professor of Chinese Studies, Professor of Communication and (by courtesy) Political Science, and a Senior Fellow at the Freeman Spogli Institute. Dr. Pan's research uses experimental and computational methods with large-scale datasets on political activity to answer questions about the role of digital media in authoritarian and democratic politics, including how political censorship, propaganda, and information manipulation work in the digital age and how preferences and behaviors are shaped as a result.

Rohini Pande

Henry J. Heinz II Professor of Economics and Director of the Economic Growth Center at Yale University

Session: Opening remarks

Background

Rohini Pande is the Henry J. Heinz II Professor of Economics, Director of the Economic Growth Center, and Director of Inclusion Economics at Yale University. She is a co-editor of American Economic Review: Insights. Pande's research is largely focused on how formal and informal institutions shape power relationships and patterns of economic, political, and environmental advantage in society, particularly in developing countries. She is interested in the role of public policy in providing the poor and disadvantaged political and economic power, and how notions of economic justice and human rights can help justify and enable such change.

Soledad Prillaman

Assistant Professor of Political Science, Stanford University

Session: Gender, political participation, and service delivery

Background

Soledad Artiz Prillaman is an Assistant Professor of Political Science at Stanford University. Her research lies at the intersections of comparative political economy, development, and gender, with a focus in South Asia. Specifically, her research addresses questions such as: What are the political consequences of development and development policies, particularly for women's political behavior? How are minorities, specifically women, democratically represented and where do inequalities in political engagement persist and how are voter demands translated into policy and governance? In answering these questions, she utilizes mixed methods, including field experiments, surveys, and in-depth qualitative fieldwork. She received her Ph.D. in Government from Harvard University in 2017 and a B.A. in Political Science and Economics from Texas A&M University in 2011.

Anita Raj

Executive Director, Newcomb Institute
Nancy Reeves Dreux Endowed Chair in the School of Public
Health and Tropical Medicine at Tulane University

Session: Gender, political participation, and service delivery

Background

Anita Raj is the Executive Director of the Newcomb Institute and the Nancy Reeves Dreux Endowed Chair in the School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine at Tulane University. She is a research scientist trained in developmental psychology and public health with a multidisciplinary research focus on gender equity in global health and development. She has led federal grant and foundation-funded studies on gender theory and measurement science, sexual and reproductive health, maternal and adolescent health, women's empowerment, and gender inequalities, including gender-based violence and child marriage. She created and leads the EMERGE platform and the Violence EXperiences (VEX) study. She has served as an advisor to UN Women, UNICEF, the World Health Organization, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, the Blue Shield Foundation of California, and the David and Lucille Packard Foundation on gender equity and health as well as women's empowerment issues, and she has been an invited speaker at the U.N. General Assembly on child, early, and forced marriage. She is also on the International Advisory Board for Lancet Global Health. She is the Co-Chair of the Committee on Gender Empowerment, Sociodemographic Development, and Population Dynamics for the National Academy of Sciences.

Simone Schaner

Assistant Professor of Economics, University of Southern California

Session: Gender, political participation, and service delivery

Background

Simone Schaner is an Associate Professor (Research) of Economics at the University of Southern California and the Scientific Director for Gender at Inclusion Economics. She studies how the social and economic environment shapes individual and household choices, elucidating how beliefs and power affect the decision-making process. Her work explores economic mechanisms that contribute to inefficiency and misallocation in low-income settings, with a focus on labor, financial, and healthcare markets.
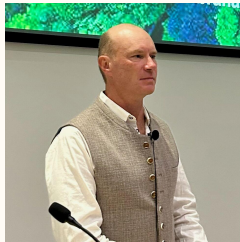
Carlo Schwarz

Assistant Professor of Economics, Bocconi University

Session: Social media and social networks

Background

Carlo Schwarz is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Economics at Bocconi University. He holds a PhD in Economics from the University of Warwick. His research interest lies in the field of applied microeconomics with a particular interest in policy-relevant questions. In his research, he combines causal inference strategies with techniques from text analysis, machine learning, and data science. His recent research investigates the contribution of social media to the spread of hate crimes and anti-minority sentiments online and offline as well as polarization and election outcomes.

Steven R. Smith

Tipping Points Research Impact Fellow, University of Exeter

Session: Energy, environment, climate change, and governance

Background

Steve Smith is the Tipping Points Research Impact Fellow at the Global Systems Institute (GSI), University of Exeter. Steve also holds a visiting research fellowship at the Centre for the Understanding of Sustainable Prosperity (CUSP), University of Surrey, and is a fellow of the Royal Society for Arts. He co-leads the work on positive tipping points at GSI and is part of the core project team that produced the Global Tipping Points Report 2023. The report will be launched on December 6th at COP 28. Steve is an editor for a special issue of Earth System Dynamics, 'Tipping Points in the Anthropocene', also to be published in December.
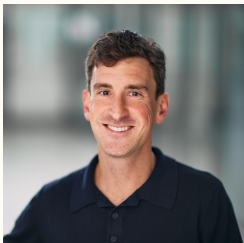
Madalina Vlasceanu

Assistant Professor of Psychology, New York University

Session: Energy, environment, climate change, and governance

Background

Madalina Vlasceanu is an Assistant Professor of Psychology at New York University and director of the Collective Cognition Lab. Madalina obtained a PhD in Psychology and Neuroscience from Princeton University in 2021 and a BA in Psychology and Economics from the University of Rochester in 2016. Her research focuses on the cognitive and social processes that give rise to emergent phenomena such as collective beliefs, collective decision-making, and collective action, with direct applications for policy. Guided by a theoretical framework of investigation, her research employs a large array of methods including behavioral laboratory experiments, social network analysis, field studies, randomized controlled trials, megastudies, and international many-lab collaborations. Madalina's research is situated at the intersection of basic and applied science, incorporates an interdisciplinary perspective, and directly informs policy relevant to current societal issues, such as the climate crisis.

Noam Yuchtman

Drummond Professor of Political Economy, University of Oxford

Session: Perspectives on the challenges and importance of multidisciplinary collaboration in governance research

Background

Noam Yuchtman is the Drummond Professor of Political Economy in the Department of Economics at the University of Oxford and All Souls College. In addition to his role at Oxford, Noam is a Managing Editor at the Review of Economic Studies. Noam's research is on topics in the fields of political economy, economic history, and labor economics.