



NEWSLETTER 2022|14

CALENDAR

Departmental Seminar

Michèle Belot (Cornell University)

"Depolarizing Americans: An Experimental Study on the Willingness to Engage"

Lunch Seminar

Denise Huber (University of Regensburg)

"On Authority, Pro-Social Behaviour and the Welfare State"

Mon, June 20

16:00 - 17:30

H 26

Wed, June 22

12:00 - 13:00

H 26



ABSTRACTS AND FURTHER INFORMATION

Departmental Seminar

Michèle Belot (Cornell University)

“Depolarizing Americans: An Experimental Study on the Willingness to Engage”

We study the willingness to engage with others who hold opposite views on polarizing policies. We give 2,500 Americans the opportunity to listen to messages by fellow countrymen and women expressing their views on immigration and on laws concerning abortion and gun ownership. We find that most Americans are willing to listen to others holding opposite views suggesting that it is possible to encourage dialogue between polarized groups. We also experimentally test whether emphasizing agreement on views regarding (1) human rights or (2) behavioral etiquette rules increase a person’s willingness to listen, compared to a control group. We find that knowing that the other person shared the same views on human rights or behavioral etiquette rules made listeners adopt less extreme views on the selected policies, thus reducing polarization.

Info:

in person

Lunch Seminar

Denise Huber (University of Regensburg)

“On Authority, Pro-Social Behaviour and the Welfare State”

I examine experimentally if individuals socialized in strong welfare states behave less pro-socially when authorities are inactive. In a two-stage choice experiment with potential negative externalities and an authority that could enforce pro-social behavior, I analyze the consequences of inactive authorities on individual pro-social behavior in a strong (Sweden) and a liberal (USA) welfare state. The results show that Swedes act less pro-socially when the authority is inactive, while Americans’ behavior is unaffected. Further, individuals who support more and harsher paternalistic measures are more likely to behave selfish when authorities are inactive, indicating a shift in responsibility towards the authority.

Info:

in person



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Wednesday, June 22 | 11 am

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