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## Upcoming Seminars

### Monday, 15.7.2019

13.30-14.30

AWI 00.010

### Internal Seminar

Zain Chaudhry

"Mobilizing Women Voters: Experimental Evidence from Pakistan"

### Tuesday, 16.7.2019

12.15-13.15

AWI 01.030

### Interdisziplinäres Fakultätsseminar

Fabian Krüger (Ökon):

"Wahrscheinlichkeitserwartungen"

Reimut Zohlnhöfer (Pol): "Wandel wirtschaftspolitischer Intervention in entwickelten Demokratien"

### Wednesday, 17.7.2019

12.15-13.15

AWI 00.010

### Internal Seminar II

Angelika Müller

"Broken Promises: Evaluating an Incomplete Cash Transfer Program"

### Wednesday, 17.7.2019

17.00-18.00

AWI 00.028

### Macro & Econometrics Seminar

Christian Proaño

"Inequality, Macroeconomic Performance and Political Polarization: An Empirical Analysis"

### Internal Seminar

Zain Chaudhry

"Mobilizing Women Voters: Experimental Evidence from Pakistan"

Reducing the gender gap in politics remains a challenge in much of the developing world. In most developing countries, the usual clientelistic political setup is completely male-focused and politicians do not directly court female votes. We evaluate a randomized door-to-door campaign by an incumbent politician in Pakistan, a campaign that was conducted by women and focused on women. The women are informed of the actual public service delivery work undertaken by the incumbent during his tenure. The randomization took place at the precinct level, allowing us to use official electoral data on gender-disaggregated turnout and vote shares. Our results suggest that in a highly competitive campaign (where the winning margin is 0.08% of the total polled votes), women's turnout in the election was unaffected. However, the vote share of the campaigning incumbent increased by 5 percentage points. Furthermore, we find suggestive evidence that this response interacts with low prior information and social norms: the effect is driven by rural areas and areas where people are poorer, have less information about the incumbent's performance and where women are more used to being in the public sphere.

### Internal Seminar II

Angelika Müller

"Broken Promises: Evaluating an Incomplete Cash Transfer Program"\*

Interventions in highly insecure and fragile contexts are always confronted with the latent risk of not being able to implement the program as intended. Despite its high policy relevance, little is known about the impacts of program disruption or cancellation on beneficiaries. This study uses the unplanned cancellation of the South Sudan Youth Business Start-Up Grant Program to assess the socio-economic, behavioral and psychological consequences of a program that fails to be implemented as intended. Originally planned as a randomized trial, the Youth Startup Business Grant Program consisted of an unconditional cash grant combined with a business and life skills training targeting the youth in South Sudan. Due to the intensification of violence in South Sudan, the disbursement of the grant was terminated in late 2016 before most intended beneficiaries had accessed the grant. The study uses survey data from face-to-face interviews and experimental data from lotteries, trust games and a list experiment to assess consequences from cancellation in a comprehensive form. The empirical analysis employs instrumental variable regressions to control for individual characteristics that might have made it more likely to access the grant before disbursement was frozen. The results show that participants that received the originally planned treatment displayed significant improvements in their consumption, savings and psychological wellbeing. However, participants that vainly expected to receive the cash grant showed reduced levels of consumption and women among this subgroup also experienced strong reductions in their trust level. In addition, we find some evidence that these women were less likely to migrate.

\*with Utz Pape und Laura Ralston (World Bank)

## Macro & Econometrics Seminar

Christian Proaño

"Inequality, Macroeconomic Performance and Political Polarization: An Empirical Analysis"

This paper investigates the macroeconomic and social determinants of voting behavior, and especially of political polarization, for 20 advanced countries using annual data ranging from 1970 to 2016 and covering 291 parliamentary elections. Using a panel estimation approach and rolling regressions, we find empirical evidence supporting that a) traditionally established mainstream parties (center-left, center, and center-right) are penalized for poor economic performance; b) far- left (populist and radical) parties benefit from increasing unemployment rates; c) greater income inequality has increased electoral support for far-right parties, particularly in recent times. Furthermore, we do not find empirical support for the notion that social and economic globalization has led to an increase in the popularity of far-right parties. These results have wide-reaching implications for the current political situation in the Western world.

## Talks and Research Visits

**Christian Conrad** presented the paper "Modelling the Forecast Errors: the MEM GARCH model" (joint with Robert Engle, Stern School of Business) in the Econometrics and Statistics Seminar, University of Bonn, July 04.

**Onno Kleen** presented his paper "Robust evaluation of distribution forecasts" at the Konstanz-Lancaster-Manchester-Warwick Joint *PhD Workshop on Quantitative Finance and Econometrics*, University of Manchester, July 01.

## New Publications

Merkel, A. & Vanberg, C.: "Legislative bargaining with costly communication" in *Public Choice* (2019).

## Miscellaneous

Baby Boom Continues: Congratulations to Christopher Kops on the birth of a baby boy, Leo, born on June 19.

**Editorial deadline for issue 20/2019 of the newsletter:  
Wednesday, July 17, 2019, 12 p.m.  
newsletter@awi.uni-heidelberg.de**

If you would like to receive the newsletter by email,  
please contact the address above.