

FALL 2019 SEMINAR SERIES



Gender Quotas and Politician Performance in Indian Local Government

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What effect do gender quotas have on the quality of representation? Dr. Lee examines the effect of randomly imposed electoral quotas for women on representation in the local governments of Mumbai and Delhi, using both objective and subjective measures of the quality of constituency service. He finds no overall effect of quotas on performance, but this pattern conceals temporal heterogeneity: men perform better in years when state and national legislative elections are held, while women perform better at other times. Quota members focus on public goods distribution, while non-quota members focus on individual goods, rentseeking, and rhetorical performance in the chamber. The results suggest that the superior ability of men to seek higher office has led to men and women cultivating different styles of representation.

12:00 - 1:30 PM | LIGHT REFRESHMENTS SERVED

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