

How to Study Electoral Irregularities: New Advances in Theory and Measurement



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Discussant:
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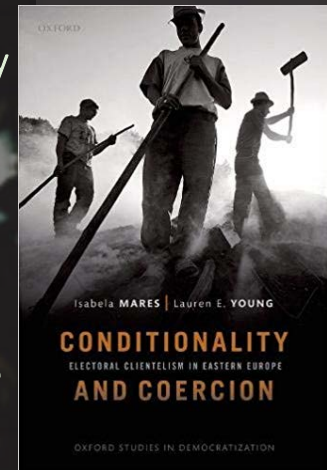
DATE: 16:00 – 18:00, March 9th, 2020

VENUE: Collaboration Room 3, 4th Fl, Bld. 18, Komaba Campus

OUTLINE:

This talk is based on Chapter 2 of her recent book (with Lauren Young) “Conditionality and Coercion”

In many European countries, elections during the period following the adoption of universal suffrage displayed remarkably high levels of vote-buying, intimidation and fraud. As voters' electoral autonomy was insufficiently protected, electoral rights were only hollow promises. In this talk, I examine the democratization of electoral practices in several European countries during the 19th century. I study the introduction of multiple electoral reforms which include legislation that sought to limit vote-buying, lower the ability of candidates to politicize state resources, improve voting technology and protect voter autonomy as well as reforms that limited fraud. Taking advantage of newly digitized historical data, I examine the conditions under which electoral majorities supporting such reforms came about and the relative importance of economic and political changes for the formation of these coalitions favoring electoral change. I conclude by discussing the implications of these successful episodes of democratization of electoral practices for recent democracies today.



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