

OSTROM WORKSHOP COLLOQUIUM SERIES

Miriam Golden

Department of Political Science, UCLA

“Reelection, Political Selection, and Development”

Monday, April 30, 2018

12:00 – 1:00 p.m.

Ostrom Workshop, 513 N. Park



We assemble original data from 112 countries around the world on the reelection rates of national legislators in recent elections. The data show that incumbent reelection rates increase substantially with a country’s level of economic development. Using a political agency model with endogenous entry to interpret this pattern, we argue that as a country develops, the pool of politicians improves. We use empirical methods to explore mechanisms that could account for the pattern in political selection that we identify.



Miriam Golden is professor of political science at the University of California at Los Angeles. Her research was for many years centered in Europe. In the last decade, she has expanded her research focus to South Asia and Africa. Golden works principally on problems of political economy, especially corruption, political criminality, and electoral fraud. Her most recent book, coauthored with economist Ray Fisman, is *Political Corruption: What Everyone Needs to Know* (Oxford University Press, 2017). She is currently involved in a field experiment using interactive voice response technology in partnership with politicians in Pakistan to provide two-way communication with voters and encourage political responsiveness. Golden is an active member of the network of scholars organized through Evidence in Governance and Politics (EGAP), where she serves on the Steering Committee for six coordinated research projects taking place around the world to study Natural Resource Governance. Her research has been funded by the National Science Foundation, the UK’s Department for International Development, the International Growth Center, and the Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab (J-PAL) ([website](#)).

Presentations are open to the public and are live streamed (see our website for URL and papers). You are welcome to bring your lunch. For questions, contact Allison Sturgeon (sturgeon@iu.edu; 812/855–3151).